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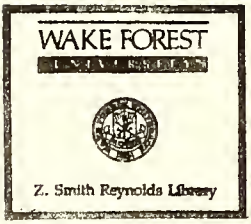

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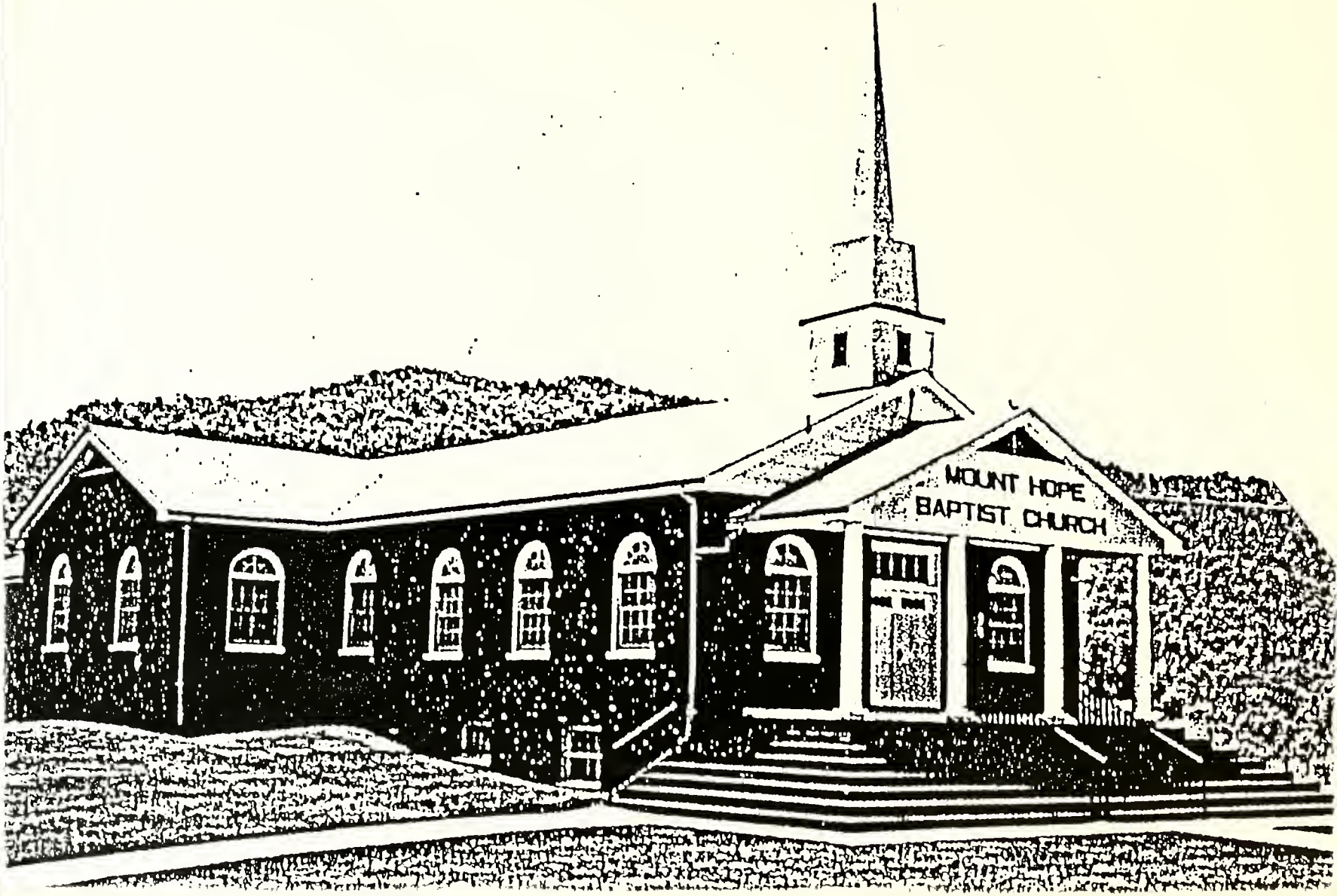

MOUNT HOPE
BAPTIST CHURCH

BX
0480
F73
.M64
1916

A message from His word.

Proverbs 29:18 "Where there is no vision, the people perish; but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."

One of the most pleasant places one could ever visit is the past. Much has been said about Mt. Hope Church and their 100 year celebration. It is good to search, review, and examine old church records. It is good to see where we have been and what is was like many years ago. However, the most important part of our past is not the nostalgia or the Old Fashioned procedure, but what our forefathers stood for. The message they believed and promoted, Jesus. Today, we are living in the period they only had a vision of. We are the reality of what they began 100 years ago. They did have a vision, and we have not perished.

Since we are here, the place of 100 years, what do we see about our future? Because of that great verse, without a vision we perish, we must see the direction Our Lord is leading us. All those who founded this fellowship 100 years ago have gone to be with the Lord, but His work is still going on. What we see and do and plan for now will be what the future church can see as the vision we had.

I pray that all of us as Christian people can know the Lord in a personal way so we may be led by Him personally to fulfill His plan and purpose in us. This congregation will always grow and prosper if we always keep Jesus and His purpose before us, but we will perish without it.

Rev. Martin Fisher
9/21/86

# CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour and, on the profession of faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love, to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings; faithful in our engagements; and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale of, and use of, intoxicating drinks as a beverage; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Saviour to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

A special thanks must be given to Marcia Crawford for her quality typing and editing. We also thank her boss, Orville Coward, Jr. for his willingness for us to use his office machines. Cecil and Jean Frady provided many of the old associational minutes that Shannon Fisher and I could research. Thanks also to all of you who took the time to write your letter about Mt. Hope. The effort you put forth in the 100 year celebration of the Mt. Hope church will last as long as time, and our future church will benefit from your personal testimony.

Most of all, we want to thank our Lord. It is by His grace we can last 100 years and plan for another. His guidance puts us in the right place. His word gives us the right message and direction. His power in us gives us the testimony that points people to Him. We just want to honor, praise, and thank you Lord for caring and guarding this your people.

# Mt Hope Church

In the fall of 1886 a small group of members from the Cartoogechaye Baptist Church decided to with draw from that church and organize another church. There were two reasons for this groups withdrawing They were that there was some dissatisfaction among the members of the Cartoogechaye Church and that the Church was too far away to be reached very conveniently by some of this group. However, be it understood, this groups withdrawing caused no hard feeling among the members of this Church. A Mr. Dutton was Pastor of the Cartoogechaye Church at that time.

This little group of withdrawers met at the home of Mr. George Crawford in September, 1886 for the purpose of organizing a Church. Rev. G. N. Wright and Rev. Samuel Harrington were appointed by this group to organize the Church. Among the families represented at this meeting were:

1. Mr. George Crawfords family.
2. Mr. Emerson Crawford wife

3. Mr. Lush Johnson + family
4. Mr. Jason Huskinson + family
5. Mr. Nick Cloer + family
6. Mrs. Susie Nichols
7. Archie Siler + wife

At that meeting this group pledged to give money to buy a piece of property for the site of the Church, However, when they started to buy the property Mr. Alfred Skaggs gave them about an acre of land for the ~~church~~ site of the Church. When they started trying to get material for the Church house, Mr. Elam Skaggs told that if they would log for him (he was running a saw mill on Wayah) he would saw their logs for their building. Many of this group stayed for a week at a time in order to get the building finished by spring. Meanwhile the group was meeting for worship in the Dodson Cove School House. When the work of building the house started, the group divided the work; Mr. Huskinson made the boards, Mr. Johnson donated the lumber, and others used their teams

This Indenture made this the 6th day of April A. D. 1887 by & between J. H. Slagle of the County of Macon & State of North Carolina as party of the 1st part & L. M. Johnston, A. T. Siler & W. C. Kinsey of the same County & State Trustees of the Mt Hope Baptist Church of the 2nd part, Witnesseth that for & in Consideration of the sum of One Dollar to the party of the 1st part paid by the parties of the 2nd part the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged said party of the 1st part has bargained, sold, Conveyed & Confirmed unto the parties of the 2nd part & their successors in office forever in trust for the purpose of Erecting & Keeping up a House of worship & for no other purpose for the said Church, a Certain tract or parcel of ground bounded as follows, Beginning at a Stake near said Slagles field running North 32 W. 21 poles to a Stake; then North 50 & 23 poles to a Cherry; then S. with the road 21 E. 14 P. to a Stake; then S. 42-1/2 W. 20 P. to the beginning Containing 2 & 3/4 poles lying on the North bank of Cartoogechaye Creek in the County & State aforesaid,

To have & to hold the said land & premises to them the said Trustees & their successors in office in trust forever for the purpose aforesaid & that said party of the 1st part do Covenant to & with said parties of the 2nd part & their successors that he is the owner of the aforesaid land & premises & has the right to Convey the same & that he will forever warrant & defend the same to the parties of the 2nd part

for the purpose aforesaid & no other purpose against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever. It is agreed & understood between the party of the 1st part & the parties of the 2nd part that the parties of the 2nd part are to build a house of worship on said land within 2 years of the date of this instrument & that said house is to be not less than 42 X 28 ft. & 14 ft. high & that said house is not to be without a regular pastor for more than one year at any time thereafter & that if said parties of the second part fail in any way to comply with aforesaid Conditions then said land & premises revert to the said party of the 1st part his heirs & assigns, Given under my hand & seal the day & date above written.

Signed sealed and delivered in the presence of J. H. Slagle

J. H. Slagle Seal

North Carolina, Macon County,

The execution of the foregoing instrument is this day proven before me by the Oath and examination of J. H. Slagle, the Subscribing witness thereto, Let the same, with this Certificate be registered. This 21st day of April 1903.

Lee Crawford
Clerk Superior Court

The foregoing Deed was filed for registration April 21st 1903. and registered this May 22nd 1903.

D. W. Blaine
Register of Deeds

These have served as pastors:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1886-? | I. D. Wright | (These first two men were appointed by Mt. Hope in 1886 to organize Mt. Hope Church. Harrington was also moderator of the association from 1889-1891--it was then called the Tuckaseige Baptist Association, Seciton 2) |
| 1899-1892 | S. H. Harrington | |
| 1892-1893 | J. E. Morgan | |
| 1893-1894 | G. A. Bartlett | |
| 1894-1897 | J. R. Pendergrass | |
| 1897-1898 | G. W. Bartlett | |
| 1898-1901 | S. B. Yoder | |
| 1901-1903 | J. R. Pendergrass | |
| 1903-1905 | J. A. Brendle | |
| 1905-? | J. W. Kesterson | |
| 1907-1909 | W. L. Griggs | |
| 1909-1910 | S. W. King | |
| 1910-1911 | J. R. Pendergrass | |
| 1911-1912 | B. S. West | |
| 1912-1913 | F. M. Morgan | |
| 1913-1916 | R. P. McCraken | |
| 1916-1918 | E. G. Ledford | |
| 1918-1919 | W. W. Marr | |
| 1919-1920 | J. C. Owen | |
| 1920-1921 | T. B. Smith | |
| 1921-1922 | A. S. Solesby | |
| 1922-? | A. J. Smith | |
| ? -1924 | A. S. Solesby | |
| 1924-1925 | J. L. Martin | |
| 1925-1927 | G. A. Cloer | |
| 1928-1937 | A. S. Solesby | |
| 1937-1938 | W. B. Underwood | |
| 1938-1940 | R. F. Mayberry | |
| 1940-1942 | G. W. Davis | |
| 1942-1944 | J. G. Benfield | |
| 1944-1944 | R. F. Mayberry | |
| 1944-1949 | Bill Sorrells | |
| 1950-1953 | Arvil Swafford | |
| 1954-1955 | M. C. Wyatt | |
| 1956-1962 | John Ralph Willis | |
| 1962-1965 | Carl E. Sizemore | |

More pastors:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1965-1966 | Clyde Collins |
| 1967-1971 | John Ralph Willis |
| 1972-1974 | Billy Smith |
| 1974-1976 | Eugene Ridley |
| 1976-1978 | Andy Raines |
| 1978-1980 | Vernon Sisco |
| 1981-1983 | Dennis Patton |
| 1983-present | Martin Fisher |

Some of our church clerks were:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1890-1892 | A. T. Siler |
| 1892-1894 | C. A. Setser |
| 1894-1897 | A. T. Siler |
| 1897-1898 | J. F. Slagle |
| 1898-1899 | A. T. Siler |
| 1899-1900 | J. F. Slagle |
| 1900-1902 | J. J. Blain |
| 1902-1909 | D. W. Blaine |
| 1909-1910 | J. C. Blaine |
| 1910-1912 | G. M. Johnson |
| 1912-1913 | J. J. Blaine |
| 1913-1916 | J. J. Kiser |
| 1916-1917 | J. H. Gregory |
| 1917-1918 | H. S. Childers |
| 1918-1920 | H. L. Childers |

Some of our Sunday School records:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1890 | S. R. Slagle was Superintendent - 28 members/40 enrolled in Sunday School |
| 1892 | E. G. Crawford was Superintendent - 49 members/45 enrolled in Sunday School |
| 1897 | John Blain was Superintendent - 39 members/40 enrolled in Sunday School |
| 1899 | E. G. Crawford was Superintendent - 39 members/50 enrolled in Sunday School |
| 1903 | J. G. Crawford was Superintendent - 48 members/46 enrolled in Sunday School |
| 1909 | Jesse Stallcup was Superintendent - 45 members/40 enrolled in Sunday School |
| 1915 | John Smith was Superintendent - 112 members/42 enrolled in Sunday School |
| 1919 | H. L. Childers was Superintendent - 79 members/40 enrolled in Sunday School |

Some facts about baptisms:

1886-1919 approximately 100 people were baptized

1920-1982 approximately 450 people were baptized

1983-present 21 people were baptized

Approximately 571 people have come to know Jesus and were baptized under the ministry of this fellowship. Thank God, it is worth it.

These men have been licensed or ordained by Mt. Hope Church. (Note: the oldest minutes of Mt. Hope's business meetings available was 1911.)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1912 | J. B. Stalcup | ordained to preach |
| 1914 | Gordon Smith | ordained deacon |
| 1921 | J. C. Dalrymple | ordained deacon |
| 1921 | Joe Setser | ordained deacon |
| 1921 | H. L. Childers | ordained deacon |
| 1930 | Cecil Crawford | ordained deacon |
| 1940 | William Dalrymple | ordained deacon |
| 1945 | Bill Shields | ordained deacon |
| 1945 | Earl Henson | ordained deacon |
| 1945 | Wayne Penland | liberated to preach |
| 1947 | Clyde Ledford | ordained deacon |
| 1947 | Arvil Parker | ordained deacon |
| 1947 | Bun Kiser | ordained deacon |
| 1951 | Bill Shields | liberated to preach |
| 1952 | James Shields | licensed to preach |
| 1952 | Bill Shields | ordained to preach |
| 1952 | Erwin Dowdle | ordained deacon |
| 1952 | Burt Crawford | licensed to preach |
| 1959 | Richard Burnette | ordained deacon |
| 1959 | Rex Lindsey | ordained deacon |
| 1959 | Robert Parker | ordained deacon |
| 1964 | Sam Crawford | licensed to preach |
| 1964 | Hilton Wallace | ordained deacon |
| 1965 | Kenneth Crawford | ordained deacon |
| 1966 | Don Stiles | ordained to preach |
| 1966 | Preaulo Crawford | licensed to preach |
| 1971 | Bobby Crawford | licensed to preach |
| 1973 | Ted Bingham | licensed to preach |
| 1974 | Bobby Crawford | ordained to preach |
| 1974 | Conrad Hefner | ordained deacon |
| 1974 | Benny Lenoir | ordained deacon |
| 1975 | Steve Bush | licensed to preach |
| 1975 | Danny Callis | ordained deacon |

Note: Clifford Dalrymple, Bruce Crawford, Bob Parsons and others have served here as deacons but were not ordained here. History can only be understood through the eyes of those who record it. This list of men may not be complete. All I had to go by was what I found recorded, but I also found some of these men were not recorded in the church minutes. If someone's name is left from any of these pages it is because they weren't recorded before.

There have been many significant things that have helped the cause of Christ over the past 100 years in Mt. Hope Church. All the research I have done couldn't be contained in one book. So here are a few of the things that happened along the way.

1889 Mt. Hope was a member of the Tuckaseige Baptist Association, section 2. It was not until 1904 that Macon Baptist Association was formed.

1890 The association meeting was held at the Burningtown church. Mt. Hope was represented by S. R. Slagle, A. T. Siler, and E. G. Crawford. Mt. Hope's pastor, S. H. Harrington, was moderator of the association during the years of 1889-1891.

1890 These associational minutes record Mt. Hope's mission offering to be $4.02.

1892 The association meeting was held at Liberty Baptist. A. T. Siler and S. R. Slagle were Mt. Hope's delegates.

1893 The associational meeting was held at Webster. E. G. Crawford represented Mt. Hope. church.

1900 S. B. Yoder, J. P. Emery, and J. F. Slagle represented Mt. Hope at the associational meeting held at Head of the Tennessee Church.

1904 Macon Baptist Association was formed. Mt. Hope was placed this year in the newly formed association. Their first meeting was held at the First Baptist Church of Franklin. Mt. Hope's delegate was E. G. Crawford.

1907 Cartoogechaye Church hosted the annual associational meeting. Mt. Hope was represented by Claude Howell, W. R. London, C. H. Howell, John J. Blaine, and W. L. Griggs.

1908 Mt. Hope was represented by W. R. London and J. C. Blaine in the annual association meeting.

4/12/12 Goldie Kiser and Nannie Crawford were appointed Missions Committee.

3/23/13 The Home Missions Committee was appointed: Nannie Crawford, Vashti Kiser, Annie Blaine, and Dorothy Stallcup. They collected "got up" $9.25 for Home Missions, but also receive $1.11 for foreign mission.

5/25/13 A committee was appointed to take up money for the orphanage: Eliza Siler, Annie Setser, Estella Stallcup, and S. Crawford.

7/12/14 Mt. Hope and Cartoogechaye combined to ordain two deacons: Gordon Smith of Mt. Hope and Henry Greenwood of Cartoogechaye.

8/8/14 Fellowship was withdrawn from a member because of drinking and using of profane language.

1916 Was the first year recorded that Mt. Hope hosted an associational meeting.

2/17/18 Mt. Hope elected W. L. Bradley as pastor, but he declined since Iotla had called him one week before.

10/1918 An influenza epidemic spread through the church. W. W. Marr resigned during this time and moved to a western state.

1920 The association minutes for this year record for the first time a W.M.U. at Mt. Hope. Nannie Crawford was the president for that year.

11/14/20 A committee was formed to meet with Prentiss Baptist to make plans for a half-time pastor.

12/20/20 T. B. Smith was elected to serve both churches. Help with his salary was given by the "State Board."

5/20/28 A. S. Solesbee was elected by the church for an indefinite time. He served until March 12, 1937. (See in this book a copy of his obituary.)

1/1/39 A committee was formed to decide on installing electric lights in the church building. J. C. Dalrymple, Cecil Crawford, and Louise Siler were on the committee.

6/3/39 After the church agreed in February to install electric lights, the pastor, R. F. Mayberry, had to remind members to bring their dime to help pay the light bill.

11/6/40 Church decided to pay 4% of pastor's salary to the retirement fund.

2/2/41 A committee of Earl Henson, Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Dalrymple, Mrs. W. O. Lewis, and Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Crawford, was appointed to level up and floor the church building.

8/1941 Rev. R. F. Mayberry held a ten day revival here. A great number of souls were saved and 25 new members were added to the church.

6/7/42 The first record of a pulpit committee was given: J. C. Dalrymple, Cecil Crawford, Harold Brookshire, Mrs. J. L. Martin, and Mrs. Lewis. They recommended J. G. Benfield as pastor on August 9, 1942.

7/12/42 First record of co-operative program gift: $5.00.

2/21/43 The building committee was given the responsibility of building a new church building. (See in this book a copy of this meeting.)

6/18/44 The church approved to tear down the old building to begin construction of new one. Mt. Hope met with the Mt. Zion Methodist Church for services.

7/1944 Manuel Wyte preached a revival here that saw 24 saved and 7 join by letter. Arvil Swafford was pastor.

1/10/54 M. C. Wyatt was called as the first full time pastor. Church voted to rent W. N. Dalrymple's house as a parsonage.

12/8/63 This was the first record of a budget and finance committee. W. N. Dalrymple, Richard Burnette, and Bob Parker were selected for this committee. Their task was to prepare a proposed budget for the year 1964-1965. The church approved this budget on May 6, 1964.

1/15/64 The rotating deacon system was voted in. They were: Richard Burnette and Bob Parker to serve three years; Cecil Crawford and Hilton Wallace to serve two years; and Erwin Dowdle to serve one year. Bill Lenoir and Preaulo Crawford were recommended to be Junior Deacons.

12/5/65 The church voted to put all this day's offering in foreign missions.

2/8/67 The rotating deacon system was dissolved. The church went back to the old system.

8/10/69 The church voted to increase their associational gift to help build an associational missionary's home.

8/8/73 The church approved to donate $1.00 per member to help fight liquor by the drink.

9/30/73 A dedication service was held to dedicate new church construction and remodeling. Bro. Bill Shields brought the dedication message. Rev. Billy Smith was the pastor.

12/4/74 The church voted to increase the co-operative program giving to 12%. Jean Holt made the motion and Bob Parker seconded it.

11/1975 The Sunday School Superintendent reported an average attendance for the month of 195 in Sunday School. Training Union average was 87.

8/3/77 A committee of Andy Raines, Clifford Dalrymple, and Clement Coss was appointed to seek proposals for air conditioning the church

3/17/82 Dewey Taylor made a motion to accept the deacon's recommendation to give $200 to send ministers and laymen to the Evangelistic Thrust in Korea.

6/15/83 Bob Parker, Kenneth Crawford, and Dewey Taylor were appointed to check on cost of building a wheel chair ramp. Volunteer labor is to be used.

2/8/84 The church voted to support and participate in the 1985 World Mission Conference.

7/4/84 The church voted to give $1000, payable in two payments, to the North Carolina Baptist Children Homes to help build Moody Farm Ministries.

10/10/84 Church voted to build new bathrooms and classrooms on the back right side of the church. This will be a two story addition. Labor to be volunteers from the church.

11/5/85 Church voted to give $200 for a Home Mission project in Richmond, Virginia, bricking a new church building. Bob Parker, Kenneth Crawford, and Rev. Martin Fisher helped to block and brick work on this project.

4/1986 Mt. Hope participated in the Good News America revival. Five were saved and many were rededicated.

Now, the rest is up to us. I have only skimmed the events of the past 100 years. However, we can easily see that this church has always been mission minded and grounded in the Word of God. Even as we celebrate, Danny and Nancy Callis and their children serve as missionaries in Brazil. Ricky Burnette is serving in the Phillipines as a journeyman missionary. What will the next celebration committee say about our contribution to God's work at Mt. Hope?

Mount Hope Church
was organized 1886

Franklin, Mc.

Dear Brethren,

This is to certify that brother _____ is in full fellowship with our church and at his own request is dismissed from Mt. Hope Bapt. Church to unite with any other Church of the same faith and order.

Yours in Christ,
P. T. Mayberry Pastor

C. C.

Form of Church letter written by Bro. Mayberry

# Obituary of Sister A. P. Setser

After suffering for three weeks with that much dreaded disease Brights Sister A. P. Setser passed to her reward apr. 10 - 1911

The whole community is Stricken with sadness over her departure but our loss is her gain Her life had bloomed out into such usefulness That it makes her departure all the more misterious and heavy to be borne;

Few women of her age had gathered about them such a large and devoted circle of friends She was a devoted member of the Baptist church having joined the church at the tender age of fifteen years She was in her forty first year at her death She was a devoted wife and a loving mother She leaves a husband and seven young children to mourn their great loss. She rests from her labors in her new home expecting her grief Stricken family besides a host of friends may the peace of God comfort all hearts with the hope of the Resurrection when all the secrets of Gods dealings Shall be made known

Respectfully Submitted

Mrs Es G. Crawford
Mrs J. J. Blaine } Committe
Mrs A. M. Siler

This July the 8th - 1911

# ASSOCIATIONAL LETTER.*

Date 1911

We, the Baptist Church, at Mt Hope, to the Macon County Association, send Christian salutation.

We send the following named messengers to sit with you in Council:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

MINISTERS WHO HOLD MEMBERSHIP WITH US.—ORDAINED.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

MINISTERS WHO HOLD MEMBERSHIP WITH US.—LICENSED.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| | | |

## STATISTICAL TABLES.

| Increase This Year. | | MEMBERSHIP. | Decrease This Year. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| By Experience and Baptism | | | By Letter | |
| By Letter or Statement | | | By Expulsion and Erasure | |
| By Restoration | | | By Death | |
| Total Increase | | | Total Decrease | |
| Total Membership Last Year | 40 | | Total Membership This Year | 56 |

OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH AND SOCIETIES.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pastor | R. S. West | Pres. W. M. U. | |
| Clerk | G. M. Johnson | Sec'y W. M. U. | |
| S. S. Supt. | E. G. L. Crawford | Pres. B. Y. P. U. | |
| S. S. Sec'y | G. M. Johnson | Sec'y B. Y. P. U. | |

Value of Church Property, $ 600 Value of Pastor's Home (Church Property), $

## SUNDAY SCHOOL STATISTICS.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Number of Schools | 1 | Kind of Literature Used | S. B. A. Series |
| Number of Pupils | 30 | Baptisms This Year | |
| Number of Teachers | | | |

*Do not detach this letter. It is to be preserved for future reference.

Mt. Hope Dec. 21 – 1912
After preaching by ~~the~~ Rev. R. P. McBrachen the church went into a conference meeting
First on motion that we elect a mod Bro. R. P. McBrachen was elected mo. P. T. minut of previous meeting was read and approved
Second on mo. that a committee of three be appointed to get up and pay over the remainder of Bro. F. M. Morgans and Bro. B. S. Wests salary and report next meeting
Sunday Dec. 22 – 1912
After preaching by Bro. Kinsland Bro. R. P. McBrachen appointed committe
Names of committe } E. G. Crawford
J. J. Kisel
J. J. Blaine

R. P. McBrachen Mo. P. T.
J. J. Blaine C. C.

Mt. Hope Dec. 22 – 1912
Ordination of Bro. J. R. Stalcup
The Presbyter Composed of Rev. R. P. McBrachen E. G. Crawford & Rev. J. L. Kinsland
After singing the Presbyter began to organize the clerk being ast if Bro J R Stalcup ordination had been set apart by the church & if the church was ready ans. it was

First on motion that Rev. R. P. McCracken act as chairman
2nd on motion that J. J. Blaine act as secretary
3rd on motion that J. J. Kiser represent the Church in the presbyter
The presbyter now bing organized Bro R. P. McCracken began to question Bro J. R. Stalcup which proved satisfietory Bro, J. L. Kinsland preached the ordination sermond and presenting the Holy Bible to Bro, Stalcup as a guide the Presbyter then melt with Bro Stalcup in prayer which was led by R. P. McCracken at the close of which the ordination was confirmed R. P. McCracken Chairman
J. J. Blaine Sec,

Mt. Hope Jan. 25 — 1913
No conference on Saturday but preaching on Sunday by the pastor.

Mt Hope Feb. 22, th 1913
After preaching by Rev. R. P. McCracken the church went into conference by electing R. P. McCracken mo,
Minute of last meeting read and approved, committee on finance reported ready for settlement with F. M. Morgan G. M. Johnson was elected Treasurer for balance of associational year, Letters of dismission were granted to Sisters Ethel & Nannie Johnson. on mo, sec'd, R. P. McCracken mo. p.
G. M. Johnson C. C. P. T.

# FINANCIAL TABLE.

THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS HAVE BEEN PAID THIS YEAR.

| TO | By the Church | | Through W. M. U. | | Through the S. S. | | Through Other Agencies | | Total. All to the Credit of Church | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pastor's Salary | 72 | 00 | | | | | | | 72 | 00 |
| Building and Repairing | | | | | | | | | | |
| Incidentals | | | | | | | | | | |
| Visiting Ministers | 12 | 30 | | | | | | | 12 | 30 |
| S. S. Expenses | | | | | | | | | | |
| The Poor | 1 | 88 | | | | | | | 1 | 88 |
| *City Missions | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Associatibnal Missions | | | | | | | | | | |
| State Missions | 6 | 74 | | | 6 | | | | 6 | 74 |
| Home Missions | 9 | 26 | | | | | | | 9 | 26 |
| Foreign Missions | 4 | 36 | | | | | | | 4 | 36 |
| Other Objects | 4 | 00 | | | | | | | 4 | 00 |
| S. S. and Colportage | 3 | 05 | | | 3 | 05 | | | 3 | 05 |
| Orphanage | 5 | 56 | | | | | | | 5 | 56 |
| Colleges and Schools | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ministerial Education | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ministerial Relief | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 40 | 29 | | | | | | | 43 | 34 |

*In some States these amounts are included in the State Mission column.

We send by our Messengers the Following Amounts, which are Included in the Financial Table:

| | DOLLARS | CENTS | | DOLLARS | CENTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Minutes and Clerk | | | Other Objects | | |
| City Missions | | | S. S. and Colportage | | |
| Associational Missions | | | Ministerial Education | | |
| State Missions | | | Ministerial Relief | | |
| Home Missions | | | Orphanage | | |
| Foreign Missions | | | Total sent up | | |

Approved by order of the Church (date) Aug. 17th 1913.

## OUR DEAD.

| | |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

Mt. Hope Church Aug. 3- 1918
After Sunday School the Church
on being called to order for
business by J.J. Blaine elected
Rev. W. H. Gruffer moderator Pro. Tem
The Church then went into an
election of a Pastor which was done
by acclamation Rev. R.P. McCrachin
was called to serve the church
for twelve months.
next in order was the election of
a clerk also done by acclamation
Bro J.J. Kiser was elected for twelve
months then on motion the moderation
was to appoint a delegate to the association
which is ~~held~~ at Oak Grove church
Aug. 21st 1918 This delegate was to
appoint another in the following
manner:- The moderator appointed
J.J. Kiser who appointed J.P. Emory
who in Turn appointed John Crawford
whose choice was J.L. Sinnett This
finished the business for this time and
the meeting was declared adjourned
by the moderator

W. H. Gruffer mod.
J.J. Blaine C.C.

Mt-Hope church, Aug 31-1913
Revival meeting was held by Pastor and Bro-
J.B. Stalcup. Results of meeting Candidates
for Baptism Amanda, and Rita York.
Louise Selser. Hulda Stalcup
Received by letter Louisa Leay. Gordan Smith
Sept 28- Received by letter Ollie Day.
W.A. Selser and wife E.E. Selser
Marler Shook and wife Lassie Shook.

Mt Hope church met Sept 28-1913 Sermon
by the pastor R. P. Mc-Cracken. Church went
into Conference Minutes of last Meeting
read and approved. On motion Charge
against Eleanor Blair for leaving our
faith and order Fellowship was withdrawn
Our Sun. Collection was taken for
State Mission $1.50. On motion a-d-j-d.
R. P. Mc-Cracken. Mod.
J. J. Kiser. C.C;

Mt-Hope church met Jan. 10-1914 Sermon
by Pastor minutes read and approved
on motion Letter of dismission was granted
John Emory & wife Carney. Colection was
taken on Sun. for foreign missions $1.65
Also Services by Pastor at usual time in Dec.
but no record was made as clerk was not
present on motion a.d.j.d. R.P. Mc-Cracken mod.
J.J. Kiser C.C.

# ASSOCIATIONAL LETTER.*

Date Aug. 1st 1914

We, the Baptist Church, at Mt. Hope, to the Macon County Baptist Association, send Christian salutation.

We send the following named messengers to sit with you in Council:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| E. G. Crawford | J. R. Ennay | |
| J. J. Riser | J. J. Blane | |
| Grover Seay | | |
| J. B. Walkup | | |

MINISTERS WHO HOLD MEMBERSHIP WITH US.—ORDAINED.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| J. B. Stalcup | | |
| | | |
| | | |

MINISTERS WHO HOLD MEMBERSHIP WITH US.—LICENSED.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| J. B. Stalcup | | |
| | | |

## STATISTICAL TABLES.

| Increase This Year. | | MEMBERSHIP. | Decrease This Year. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| By Experience and Baptism | 6 | | By Letter | 2 |
| By Letter or Statement | 11 | | By Expulsion and Erasure | 1 |
| By Restoration | | | By Death | 1 |
| Total Increase | 17 | | Total Decrease | 4 |
| Total Membership Last Year | 58 | | Total Membership This Year | 83 |

OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH AND SOCIETIES.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pastor | R. P. McCracken | Pres. W. M. U. | |
| Clerk | J. J. Riser | Sec'y W. M. U. | |
| S. S. Supt. | E. G. Crawford | Pres. B. Y. P. U. | |
| S. S. Sec'y | John Crawford | Sec'y B. Y. P. U. | |

Value of Church Property, $ ..... Value of Pastor's Home (Church Property), $ .....

## SUNDAY SCHOOL STATISTICS.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Number of Schools | 1 | Kind of Literature Used | S. B. Publish |
| Number of Pupils | 30 | Baptisms This Year | 6 |
| Number of Teachers | 5 | | |

*Do not detach this letter. It is to be preserved for future reference.

Mount Hope Missionary Baptist
met A Saturday April 22 1916 preaching
by the Bisture after wich the church
was declared ~~as~~ ready for the transaction
of business first read minut of
previous meetings and Approved
2on elect Brother E. F. Crowford Mod Pro
Tem Brother E F. Ledford excelled the
Pastoral Charge of the Church
for the balance of the year
adjourned till Sunday Evening 2 oc
to meet at the waters edge for the
purpose of Baptising met at time
and place Baptised the following
candidats to wit Humphry Childres
Herman Childres Lester Childres
Crawford Smith Kate Setzer after
wich retired to Church received
right hand of church fellowship
also preached Nothing more adjourned
to meet on Saturday before the 3 Sunday
in May 1916 E F Ledford mod
J L Smith C C

Gt Hope missionary Baptist Church
Sept. 17. 1916 3rd Lord's Day preaching by pastor
after which the door of the church
was opened. Cecil Crawford called
Crawford and Bessie Emory joined.
and was given the right hand
of Christian fellowship. meeting adj

E J Ledford Pr
J. L Crawford CC

Gt Hope missionary Baptist Church
Gt Hope saturday OCT 14. 1916 11 am preaching
by pastor after which the Church was
convened in order for business.
1st a letter from other Corbys were read
letting the Church to restore them back
in the Church. and on motion were restored
back as a member of our body. 2d a motion was
made to pay our pastor $10.00 per trip the motion
carried and the salary amounts to $40.00 per year.
then the door of the Church was opened.
Annie Childers Penny Emory and Lloyd Fisher
was rec as candidates for baptism
meeting adj until sunday.

E J Ledford mod.
J. L Crawford C.C.

sunday october 15 1916 the church met at the water 10 a m for the purpose of baptism the dore of the church was opened. mrs Robt Smith Beulah Smith and mrs Seaborne Clore was rescived as candidates for baptism, after which Wood Kiser Cecil Crawford Addie Crawford Annie Childers Beulah Smith mrs Robt Smith mrs Seaborne Clore Dewy Emory and Bessie Emory was baptized. then after returning to the church preaching by pastor after which the candidates was give the right hand of church fellowship. then the dore of the church was opened and bro. oliver mcbeth was rec under the watch care of the church until he could get a letter meeting adj

E J Ledford mod
J L Crawford C C

Mt. Hope Church met Nov. 18 1916 Theodore W. Kiser joined the church and was Baptised, after which the regular Sermon by the Pastor E. J. Ledford and services of the Communion. With the members commencing their usual Sunday Services. On motion adjd. E. J. Ledford and J. L. Kiser C. C. Pro

# ASSOCIATIONAL LETTER.*

Date Aug 1917

We, the Baptist Church, at Mt Hope, to the Macon Co. Assn.
Association, send Christian salutation.

We send the following named messengers to sit with you in Council:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| J. F. Blaine | | |
| Bernard Emery | | |
| H. L. Childers | | |
| Gordan Smith | | |

MINISTERS WHO HOLD MEMBERSHIP WITH US.—ORDAINED.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| J B Stalcup | | |
| | | |
| | | |

MINISTERS WHO HOLD MEMBERSHIP WITH US.—LICENSED.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| J B Stalcup | | |
| | | |

## STATISTICAL TABLES.

| Increase This Year. | MEMBERSHIP. | Decrease This Year. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| By Experience and Baptism | 10 | By Letter | 6 |
| By Letter or Statement | 7 | By Expulsion and Erasure | |
| By Restoration | 0 | By Death | 2 |
| Total Increase | 17 | Total Decrease | 7 |
| Total Membership Last Year | 84 | Total Membership This Year | 91 |

OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH AND SOCIETIES.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pastor | E. G. Ledford | Pres. W. M. U. | |
| Clerk | H. L. Childers | See'y W. M. U. | |
| S. S. Supt. | H. L. Childers | Pres. B. Y. P. U. | |
| S. S. See'y | | See'y B. Y. P. U. | |

Value of Church Property, $ 1.000 Value of Pastor's Home (Church Property), $

## SUNDAY SCHOOL STATISTICS.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Number of Schools | 1 | Kind of Literature Used | |
| Number of Pupils | 20 | Baptisms This Year | 10 |
| Number of Teachers | 3 | | |

*Do not detach this letter. It is to be preserved for future reference.

# FINANCIAL TABLE.

THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS HAVE BEEN PAID THIS YEAR.

| TO | By the Church | Through W. M. U. | Through the S. S. | Through Other Agencies | Total. All to the Credit of Church |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Pastor's Salary* | 100 | | | | |
| *Building and Repairing* | 50 | | | | |
| *Incidentals* | | | | | |
| *Visiting Ministers* | | | | | |
| *S. S. Expenses* | | | 1.75 | | |
| *The Poor* | | | 2.60 | | |
| **City Missions* | | | | | |
| **Associational Missions* | | | 2.34 | | |
| *State Missions* | | | 5.00 | | |
| *Home Missions* | 5.00 | | | | |
| *Foreign Missions* | 5.00 | | | | |
| *Other Objects* | | | | | |
| *S. S. and Colportage* | 4.00 | | | | |
| *Orphanage* | 5.00 | | | | |
| *Colleges and Schools* | | | | | |
| *+Ministerial Education* | 1.00 | | | | |
| *Ministerial Relief* | | | | | |
| *Total* | | | | | |

* In some States these amounts are included in the State Mission column.

We send by our Messengers the Following Amounts, which are Included in the Financial Table:

| | DOLLARS | CENTS | | DOLLARS | CENTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Minutes and Clerk* | | 75 | *Other Objects* | | |
| *City Missions* | | | *S. S. and Colportage* | 4 | 00 |
| *Associational Missions* | 2 | 34 | *Ministerial Education* | 1 | 00 |
| *State Missions* | 5 | 00 | *Ministerial Relief* | | |
| *Home Missions* | 5 | 00 | *Orphanage* | 5 | 00 |
| *Foreign Missions* | 5 | 00 | *Total sent up* | 28 | 19 |

*Approved by order of the Church (date)* Aug 11 — 1918

## OUR DEAD.

| | |
|---|---|
| John L. Crawford | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

Dec 12 - 1920

Mt Hope Baptist Church met and called a conf. after Preaching for Election of Pastor for Half time arrangements being made in Previous meetings with the Prentiss Baptist Church to ask Help from the State Board.

Bro J.B. Smith of Hazlehurst N.C was elected by unanimous vote and a call extended also church approved filling out Blank to State Board for half of Pastors Salary

On motion adj

J.C. Owen mod

W.L. Childers C.C.

=

Feb 13 - 1921

Mt Hope Baptist church met and at the close of Preaching hour called a brief conference. letters of dismission were granted to Sister Lawendy Seay and Son Grover Seay. with Bro Marlee Shook and wife Lassie Shook. a mention of Bro. Shooks Deaconship at the church with which he was former Decon & member was mentioned in his letter On Motion Conf adj

J.C. Owen mod

W.L. Childers C.C.

Aug. 27, 1922

The Mt. Hope Baptist Church was called into session Aug. 27 to receive resignation of pastor, Rev. A. S. Solsby.

A. S. Solsby, pastor
Joe Setser C. C.

Oct. 15, 1922.

The Mt. Hope Missionary Baptist Church was called into session Oct. 15, to elect pastor. Rev. A. J. Smith was elected, and accepted until other arrangements could be made. After delivering an excellent sermon the congregation was dismissed.

A. J. Smith. Mod.
Joe. Setser C. C.

Nov. 12, 1922

Mt. Hope Baptist Church met Sunday, Nov. 12 for regular service. After an unusually helpful sermon on "Gift of Self to Jesus" by pastor, the church was called into session for purpose of granting letter of dismission to Sister Mary Copley Young. Bro. Smith talked a few minutes on the things accomplished by the "75 million" campaign and the importance of paying up pledges. Nothing more being brought by congregation was dismissed. A. J. Smith Pr.

Joe Setser C. C.

# ASSOCIATIONAL LETTER.*

Date Aug. 23. 1925

We, the Baptist Church, at Mount Hope, to the Macon County Association, send Christian salutation.

We send the following named messengers to sit with you in Council:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| J. C. Dalrymple | J. L. Martin | |
| Cecil Crawford | | |
| Mrs. E. V. Crawford | | |
| J. Blair | | |

MINISTERS WHO HOLD MEMBERSHIP WITH US.—ORDAINED.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| J. L. Martin | Paul Dalrymple | |
| | | |
| | | |

MINISTERS WHO HOLD MEMBERSHIP WITH US.—LICENSED.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| | | |

# STATISTICAL TABLES.

| Increase This Year. | MEMBERSHIP. | Decrease This Year. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| By Experience and Baptism | 2 | By Letter | 3 |
| By Letter or Statement | 4 | By Expulsion and Erasure | 2 |
| By Restoration | | By Death | 1 |
| Total Increase | 6 | Total Decrease | 6 |
| Total Membership Last Year | 73 | Total Membership This Year | ~~73~~ 70 |

OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH AND SOCIETIES.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pastor | J. L. Martin $125. | Other Salaries $24.62 | Pastor $ 125.00 |
| Clerk | J. J. Blair | Pres. W. M. U. | |
| S. S. Supt. | J. C. Dalrymple | Sec'y W. M. U. | other salaries 24.62 |
| S. S. Sec'y | Paul Dalrymple | Pres. B. Y. P. U. | S. S. & B. Y. P. U. 5.30 |
| | | Sec'y B. Y. P. U. | treasurer & clk. 1.50 |

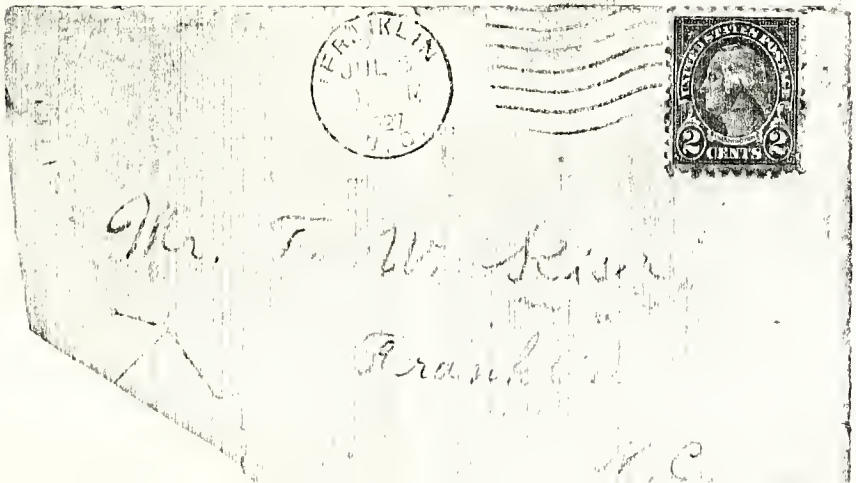
156.42
18.11
175.53
1.97
2.50
21.64
175

Value of Church Property, $ 1000. Value of ~~Pastor's Home (Church Property)~~,

# SUNDAY SCHOOL STATISTICS.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Number of Schools | 1 | Kind of Literature Used | U. B. C. A. |
| Number of Pupils | 40 | Baptisms This Year | 2 |
| Number of Teachers | 4 | | |

*Do not detach this letter. It is to be preserved for future reference.


FRANKLIN
JUL
2
CENTS

Sunday July 6 - 1930.
Mt Hope church met for services
at eleven oclock after singing & prayer
the door of the church was opened
& sister Nebe Curtis was received
into the church by letter & given the
right hand of church fellowship &
after preaching the church was called
into conference by our pastor
on motion J. J. Blaine was elected clerk
second delegate was appointed to the
association by the pastor names of delegate
J. C. Dalbeyond J. J. Riser Sister Ellen Cra-
mford Cecil Crawford willie Dalbeyond
conference adjourned
Rev. A. S. Bolesbe mod.
J. J. Blaine C. C.

Sunday Sept. 7 - 1930
Mt. Hope church met for preaching
at eleven oclock & after preaching
the church was called into conference
& the minuts of our last meeting not
accessable new business was taken up
first on motion the church ast the pastor
to attend his time for two months longer
& at our next meeting we would decide when
to have a protracted meeting
conference ajourned
Rev. A. S. Bolesbe mod.
J. J. Blaine C. C.

Rev. A.S. [illegible] Baptist Minister died at his home [illegible] Saturday morning.

Funeral services were conducted at Liberty Grove Baptist Church Saturday morning at 11 o'clock by Rev. J.A. Flanagan, pastor of the Franklin Presbyterian Church, and D.C. McCoy, of Oak Grove.

For 35 years Rev. Solesbee has been preaching and the churches of Macon County. He has preached in practically every Church in the County.

With the passing of Rev. Solesbee there was a sense of sorrow throughout the entire County, our Association has lost one of its most capable pastors. He has faced and surmounted the difficulties and handicaps of the active Mountain pastors. Hundreds of lives have been made better and purer by his ministrations and host of sinners have been brought to Christ through his untiring efforts.

Miss Read Dec

[illegible] resolved: First, that
[illegible] Baptist Church
[illegible] extend to the
[illegible] and family, and pray him for the
[illegible] and mercies of this Man of God.

Second, that our hearts are filled with gratitude for the privilege of companionship with such an upright, outstanding Christian gentleman.

Third, that the members of this Church deeply regret the loss and desire to express their appreciation for the faithful and remarkable services rendered by him.

Lastly.

Fourth, that 3 Copies be made of these resolutions, One Copy to be sent to the Biblical Recorder, that one copy be kept in the Church records and that a third copy be sent to the Members of the Bereaved family.

J. Lyles, Chairman
Mrs Chas Waldrop
Rev Cecil Crawford

Sunday Nov. 6, 1938

Church met for preaching at the regular preaching hour. An excellent sermon was delivered by the pastor R.F. Mayberry. As there was no special business Conference was not called. A Collection of $3.62 was taken and paid to the pastor.

Mrs Cecil Crawford asstc

Mt Hope Church Dec. 4 1938.

Church went into Conference before preaching. Minutes of last meeting read and approved. A letter of dismission was granted Sister A.C. Robinson. Plans were discussed to celebrate the bi-centennial of the church. The new Monthly offering was taken. The sum of $9.86 was paid to the pastor. No other business Conference adj.

R.F. Mayberry Mod.
Mrs Cecil Crawford. C.C.

Mt. Hope Baptist Church Jan 1, 1939.

Conference was called before preaching. Minutes of last meeting read and approved. A Committee consisting of J.C. Dalrymple, Cecil Crawford and Jessie Sisler was appointed to decide

of the Church would install electric lights.

An offering of $4.61 was taken and paid the pastor. No other business Conference adj.

C. F. Mayberry Mod.
Mrs Cecil Crawford C pro tem

Mt. Hope Church Feb. 5, 1939

Church was called into Conference after preaching. Minutes of previous Meeting read and approved. The electric light Committee was ask to report. They had decided the Church would install lights.

A Committe was appointed to plan a program for the Celebration of the 55th Anniversary of the church, to be held the 5th of March. No other business Conference adjourned.

C. F. Mayberry Mod.
Mrs Cecil Crawford C pro.

Sunday February 6, Collection $4.55. paid to the Pastor.

Mt Hope Baptist Church. Saturday March 4, 1939.

Conference was called after preaching. Minutes of last Meeting read and approved as there was no business Conference adj. C. F. Mayberry Mod. Mrs C. Crawford

Sunday March 5, 1939. Offering $9.92 paid to the the pastor.

Mt Hope Baptist Church April 1, 1939 after preaching service ~~Church~~ Conference was called. Minutes of last meeting read and approved. There being no other business, on Motion, Conference adj.

D J Mayberry Mod.
Mrs Cecil Crawford C C

Collection for Sunday April 2 $6.75 paid the pastor

Mt Hope Baptist Church May 6, 1939 Church met for Sat. Night service ~~after~~ a very helpful and interesting lesson was taught by the pastor, from the 3rd Chapter of Genesis. As there was no business Conference was not Called. The Minutes of last Meting was read and approved.

Mrs Cecil Crawford C C.

Offering for May 7 1939. $4.90 given to the pastor.

Mt Hope Baptist Church June 3, 1939 Church met for preaching service. after an excellent sermon by Rev Robert Williams a brief Conference was called. The Members were reminded to bring their money for the light bill.

to January 17, 1943 are as following:
Revivle #50.00, general funds #21.66, State Missons
#21.75, Orphanage home #13.00, Ministrial Beteriament
Plan #2.75, Coal #11.00 and Pastor Salary #101.27.
Total amount payed to all causes #226.53 total
amount of money in treasure #176.66.

Earl B. Henson Treasure

Mt. Hope Baptist Church met January 17, 1943.
Preaching by J. G. Benfield. Minute for last
conference was read and approved report of
the treasure was presented to the church being
no other business on motion conferance
adjourned.

J. G. Benfield M.d.
Earl B. Henson C.C.

The Mt. Hope Church building comittee met Wed.
night Feburary 3, with pastor presiding to discuss
plans for a new church building.

After prayerful consideration the plan was

decided upon. A wood building not less than 50 ft. long and 30 ft. wide with an Ell on each side not less 10 x 20 ft. for Sunday School rooms.

The comittee adjourned with this report to be submitted to the Church at the next regular conferance.

Signed. Mrs. W. N. Dalrymple
Clerk of the comittee

Mt. Hope Baptist Church met Feb. 21, 1943 preaching by pastor minute for last meeting was read and approved. Plan for new church building was presented to the church by the clerk and was adopted. A builders commitee was elected names as follows; Cecil Crawford Chairmen, Harold Brookshire, John Dalrymple, Earl B. Henson, Mrs. W. N. Dalrymple, being no other business on motion

To The Mt.Hope Baptist Church

Dear Church,

I know it will be a surprise to you to know that I am moving early Monday morning.After I was here two weeks I realized that I had made a mistake in coming back.When I left here four years ago I felt like my work at Cowee and Iotla was done.The work that I did at Rhodhiss proved that my impression was right.No one will ever know the sleepless nights and many tears that I have shed over the work here.Now I know definitely that my work at these two churches is done.You people know that I can't stay up here with just one church.Mrs.Mayberry and I prayed that if the Lord wanted us to stay up here that we wanted him to block any church from calling us.Also if he did not want us to stay to open up a work for us.Then without my doing or knowing anything about the Mt.Home Baptist Church to which we have been called unanimously,the church contacted me and later called me.I feel like the Lord opened tho way up for us.

If I have wronged the church in any way I beg you to forgive me. But may I remind you that when I came I told you that I may be here only thirty days.I know it is not right to leave a church so soon and so quickly without giving you a notice,but the church at Mt.Home wants me to begin my work there tho 12 .th. of November.I confess that I have made a mistake in a way,but I feel like I can be a better man and a better preacher by having had such an experience.We want to express our deepest appreciation to you for all that you have done for us.Please don't let this mar our friendship and love that we have for each other.

Our prayers shall be that the Lord will bless you and guide you in yourgreat work and in the calling of a pastor.Read Roman 8:28 and believeit.

Respectfully submitted
R.F. Mayberry
R.F.Mayberry

1944

Franklin, N.C. Rt. 1
Nov. 2, 1947

Dear Rev. Sorrells,

Someone told me that Mount Hope Church was going to buy a bus to carry people to Church. I think that is a wonderful idea. I want you to know that our family will help in every way we can. We want to join the Mount Hope Church. We have wanted to for the past year but we have sickness in our home and we have kept putting it off, thinking we could all join together.

Inclosed is a check for $5.00 and beginning next month I want to begin giving a tenth of what I make.

Don't you remember my family in your Prayers and visit my father and mother. They would enjoy your coming.

Sincerely yours,
Esther Seay

# SOUTHERN BAPTIST VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REPORT BLANK

ate N. C P.O. Franklin (Town or City) School Began June 7, 1965 Association MACON

CHURCH School (1) ☑ MISSION School (1) ☐ NEGRO School (1) ☐

CHURCH SCHOOL; write name here Mt. Hope Baptist Church

DRESS OF CHURCH RT 1, Franklin, N.C

ISSION SCHOOL; write name here

Sponsoring Organization

STOR AND ADDRESS

INCIPAL AND ADDRESS Mr. J.H. Jones RT 1, Franklin, N.C.

XTBOOKS: Circle letter of each book used.

| | 1965 | 1966 | 1967 | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| raery | (A) | A | A | A | A | A |
| tinner | (A) | B | A | B | A | B |
| mary | (C) | A | B | C | A | B |
| nior | (A) | B | C | D | A | B |
| ermediate | (A) | B | C | D | A | B |

Was offering given through Cooperative Program? (23) Yes ☑ No ☐

If "No", to what cause was it given?

Mission offering (24) $23.51

Cost of school (27) $65.60

For a joint school write on church school to left name of church where school held; other names here. JOINT

## GENERAL SUMMARY

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. unsaved Juniors enrolled | (4) | none |
| 1. unsaved Intermediates enrolled | (6) | none |
| pils not in any Sunday school | (8) | |
| rents not in any Sunday school | (10) | |
| ofessions of faith | (12) | none |
| dications | | none |
| llege students on faculty | (14) | none |
| mber of days | (16) | 10 |
| ngth daily: (18) hrs. 3 | min. | |
| om 9 AM till 12 Noon | | |
| as Preparation Day held? | (21) | Yes |
| as there a parade? | | Yes |
| as Commencement held? | (22) | Yes ☑ No ☐ |

## STANDARD: DIVISION A

| | Points | | Points |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | 50 | 6. | 140 |
| 2. | 100 | 7. | 100 |
| 3. | 50 | 8. | 150 |
| 4. | 100 | 9. | 100 |
| 5. | 54 | 10. | 50 |
| Total Points | (33) | | 994 |
| Grade | | | A |

## DIVISION B

Total extra points 215

Number of Items 12

## ENROLMENT: FIVE REGULAR DEPARTMENTS

| | Pupils Male | Pupils Female | Faculty | Total | Average Attend. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nursery (3 yr.) (37) | 4 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 7 |
| Beginner (40) | 4 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 8 |
| Primary (43) | 4 | 7 | 2 | 13 | 13 |
| Junior (46) | 2 | 7 | 2 | 11 | 11 |
| Intermediate (49) | 3 | | 2 | 5 | 5 |
| General officers → | | | | 2 | 2 |
| Totals | | | (52) | (55) | 46 (58) |

## ENROLMENT: EXTRA DEPARTMENTS (IF ANY)

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nursery (0-1-2) | 1 | 2 | | | 3 |
| Young People (61) | | | | | |
| Adult (63) | | | | | |

## NUMBER OF ENROLLED PUPILS BY AGES

| Nursery | Beginner | Primary | Junior | Intermediate |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 yr. 2 | 4 yr. | 6 yr. 3 | 9 yr. 2 | 13 yr. 2 (67) |
| | 5 yr. 5 | 7 yr. 5 | 10 yr. 2 | 14 yr. (69) |
| | | 8 yr. 3 | 11 yr. 2 | 15 yr. (71) |
| | | | 12 yr. (65) 6 | 16 yr. (73) 2 |
| Total 2 | 6 | 11 | | |

## PLEASE READ AND FOLLOW THESE SUGGESTIONS BEFORE YOU FILL IN THE BLANKS

***Make a separate report for each church school held. Make a separate report for each mission school held.***

(Note: The numbers in the smallest type on report form are for use of IBM machines at Sunday School Board)

STATE.—That of the state convention. If at of post office is different, write state after e post office.

POST OFFICE.—Name of town or city of urch or school.

DATE SCHOOL BEGAN.—The first regular day, ot Preparation Day.

ASSOCIATION.—Reports are filed by asso- ations. Be sure it is the one to which urch belongs. For mission and Negro hools, give name of association in which ey are held.

CHURCH, MISSION, OR NEGRO SCHOOL.—Be re to check the box (or boxes) that will lentify it, and write its name either on church" or "mission" line below the box.

NEGRO SCHOOL.—Do not report it to the state unday school secretary unless it was pro- oted or materially helped in some way.

CHURCH SCHOOL.—A school in any church active or inactive), even if held by outsiders, s a church school. Count it a church school f it is listed in the associational minutes. For hurch schools not in the association, give omination and make necessary explana- is.

MISSION SCHOOL.—If it has no name, describe location so it can be identified. If it is at a regular mission point of some church, so state, and give name of church that supports or sponsors it.

JOINT SCHOOL.—*One* school held jointly by two or more Baptist churches. On "church school" line enter name of church where school was held. Send in only *one* report in duplicate.

PUPILS IN NO SUNDAY SCHOOL.—Those in the five regular age groups who are not enrolled in a Sunday school.

DEDICATIONS.—Number who surrender for Christian service or rededicate themselves to Christ during the school.

COLLEGE STUDENTS ON FACULTY.—Those in college during the preceding year.

DAYS.—Do not include Preparation Day. Add no extra days for hours beyond three hours a day. Do not report a school of less than three days or totaling less than six hours.

COST.—Include marketable donations at their retail value.

ZEROES.—Write a zero if that is the correct answer. Leave no space blank.

STANDARD.—There are six copies in the Principal's Package.

MISSION OFFERING.—What is given during the school. Do not include commencement or expense offering, or gifts to any person. State for what purpose offering was given, such as the Cooperative Program, etc. Mail the offering, with explanations, to the executive secretary of your state convention; never to the Baptist Sunday School Board.

ENROLMENT.—Include all pupils and faculty who attended one or more days (not counting Preparation Day). (Do not include known visitors.) Enrolment of extra departments will be recorded separately from regular departments.

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE.—Add all present for each day (do not include Preparation Day), and divide by number of days. The result will be the average attendance.

Use this report in evaluating this year's school and in making plans and preparation for next year's school.

# RELEASE OF CLAIM FOR RIGHT OF WAY AND DAMAGE

N. C. STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

RIGHT OF WAY DEPARTMENT

INSTRUCTIONS: Prepare an original and 2 copies.

| CLAIM OF (Must conform to Report B) | WORK ORDER NUMBER | COUNTY |
|---|---|---|
| Mt. Hope Baptist Church | 8.3064103 | Macon |
| NAME OF PAYEE | | PARCEL |
| Cecil Crawford, William N. Dalrymple and Erwin P. Dowdle, Trustees for Mt. Hope Baptist Church | | 10 |

We, the undersigned, in consideration of the sum of $ 4,000.00, Four thousand and 00/100 - - - - - - - Dollars, paid to us by State Highway Commission Warrant No. 890872, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, do hereby release and discharge the State Highway Commission from any and all claims for damage or allowance which we may have or ought to have by reason of the acquisition of the property right conveyed to the State Highway Commission in the agreements previously executed by the undersigned on the above project and for all purposes for which the Commission, its successors and assigns are authorized to subject the same. It is understood that the plural as used herein includes the singular.

Witness our hand and seal, this the 17th day of November, 1970.

MOUNT HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH (SEAL)

By: Cecil Crawford (SEAL)
Cecil Crawford, Trustee

(SEAL)

By: William N Dalrymple (SEAL)
William N. Dalrymple, Trustee

(SEAL)

By: Erwin P Dowdle (SEAL)
Erwin P. Dowdle, Trustee

NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: Under the 1969 Highway Relocation Act, you are eligible to be reimbursed for a portion of your current real property taxes prorated on time and value of area acquired by the State Highway Commission, and also any penalties for pre-payment actually paid and necessarily incurred by the acquisition on any mortgages entered into in good faith and recorded on the date of approval of the location of the project. For a determination of eligibility to receive payment for the above, you may submit your paid receipts to the Right of Way Office which handled your claim. The receipts will be forwarded to Raleigh for prorating and payment.

I hereby certify that the sum set out in the above-described warrant was delivered personally by me to the payee on 17 Nov 70, except for the following deductions or charges: none

| SIGNATURE OF CLOSING ATTORNEY OR AGENT | ITEMIZED DEDUCTIONS OR CHARGES |
|---|---|
| Nelson Hall | |

FORM R/W 11
(Rev. 4/70)

copy

MT. HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH
Route 1
Franklin, N. C. 28734

Feb. 22, 1973

Senator Charles Taylor
House of Legislature
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear Sir:

Mount Hope Baptist Church met in conference February 21, 1973 and passed the following resolution unanimously. "We reslove that we are opposed to alcohol in Macon County. However, if this issue must come to a vote, we prefer a county wide vote to a town vote".

Billy Smith, Moderator

Kate Crawford, Church Clerk

# North Carolina General Assembly

Senate Chamber

State Legislative Building

Raleigh 27611

March 1, 1973

SENATOR CHARLES H. TAYLOR
37TH DISTRICT
SENATE MINORITY LEADER
HOME ADDRESS: BOX 66
BREVARD, N. C.

COMMITTEES:

PUBLIC HEALTH, VICE CHAIRMAN
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL
APPROPRIATIONS
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
COURTS AND JUDICIAL DISTRICTS
HIGHER EDUCATION
JUDICIARY I
MANUFACTURING, LABOR AND COMMERCE
RULES AND OPERATION OF THE SENATE
STATE GOVERNMENT
WILDLIFE

Miss Kate Crawford
Church Clerk
Mt. Hope Baptist Church
Route 1
Franklin, North Carolina 28734

Dear Miss Crawford:

I appreciate your letter explaining the feelings of the Mt. Hope Baptist Church. I share the concern in your resolution and assure you that I do not intend to introduce any legislation where a few of the people of the county place the responsibility of their action on the full county.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time regarding matters of concern to you.

Sincerely yours,

Charles H. Taylor

CHT//ms

BLUE BELL, INC.
COMMERCE, GEORGIA 30529, TELEPHONE 404 FE 5 3185

Feb.11, 1974

Rev. Billy Smith
Mt. Hope Baptist Church
Franklin, N.C.

Dear Rev. Smith,

On behalf of the Blue Bell Foundation I would like to give you the enclosed check for $150.00 to assist your church in its building program. This contribution is available because the persons listed below are members of your congregation and are also employees in good standing with our Franklin plant. It is in their name that Blue Bell makes this contribution.

May God be with you in your building program and in your ministry.

Yours truly,

Robert H. Hendrix
Manager
Blue Bell, Inc.

CC: Glenda Hefner
Debbie Holland
Sue Jenkins
Ada Leatherwood
Patsy Passmore
Beatrice Johnson

ack'd 2.28.74

# PROPOSED PASTOR'S SALARY AND BENEFITS

## MT. HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH – FRANKLIN, N.C.

① SALARY $125.00/WK.

② FICA --- AS REQUIRED - APPROX. $10.00/WK.

③ HOSPITALIZATION --- 2/3 OF MONTHLY RATE UP TO $30.00/MO.

④ HOUSING & UTILITIES: (APPROX. VALUE)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PARSONAGE | – | $150.00/MO. |
| POWER | – | 26.00/MO. |
| FUEL | – | 20.00/MO. |
| TEL. | – | 10.00/MO. |

$205.00/MO. ≈ $47.60/WK.

⑤ CHRISTMAS GIFT = ONE WEEKS PAY

⑥ STATE CONVENTION = $50.00

⑦ EVANGELISTIC CONF. = $50.00

⑧ SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONV. = ASSISTANCE DEPENDS ON LOCATION.

⑨ VACATION – ONE WEEK AFTER FIRST YEAR.
TWO WEEKS FROM SECOND YEAR ON.

WEEKLY SALARY AND BENEFITS = $214.65

6-5-74

## Calendar of Events

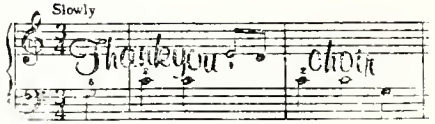
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sunday | 6:30 p.m. | Church Training |
| | 7:30 p.m. | Worship Service |
| | 8:30 p.m. | Adult Choir Practice |
| Wednesday | 7:00 p.m. | S.S. teachers meeting |
| | 7:30 p.m. | Business Meeting |
| | | Prayer Meeting |
| | | Youth Organizations |
| | 8:30 p.m. | Youth Choir Practice |

## Report for last week

Sunday School Attendance..... 153
Church Training Attendance..... 70
Wednesday Night Attendance..... 80
Sunday's Offering.....$725.18
Wednesday Night Offering.....21.67

## Nursery

There will be no worker's during this morning's service.
July 4 Night....Donna Lloyd & Eugenia Crawford
Julyll....Louise Shields & Kathryn Angel
Night....Helen Parker & Clara Jane Pruitt




THE
COMBINED CHOIRS OF
MT. HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

present

# PraiSing - "Let Freedom Ring"

Sunday July 4, 1976 11:00 A.M.

A Singing and Praising Bicentennial Salute to Our Fellowmen, Our Country, and Our God.

Directed by
Robert K. Parsons

Organist: Nancy Callis Pianist: Shirley Waldroc

Pastor
Rev. Andy Raines

PROGRAM

Parade of Flags & Bible

American Flag.....Jeff Waldroop

Pledge of Allegiance.....Congregation & Choirs

"Star Spangled Banner"....Congregation & Choirs

"Three Cheers for the Red, White, & Blue"..... Music Makers

Christian Flag.....Kimberly Ann Parsons

Pledge to Christian Flag..Congregation & Choirs

"I pledge allegiance to the Christian Flag And to the Saviour for whose Kingdom it stands, One brotherhood, uniting all mankind, in service and in love."

"Onward Christian Soldiers".....Combined Choirs

Bible.....Nora Crawford

Pledge to Bible.....Congregation & Choirs

"I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word. And will make it a lamp unto my feet, a light unto my path and will hide its words in my heart that I may not sin against God."

"Holy Bible, Book Divine".Congregation & Choirs Hymn #164

Greetings - Prayer - Offering.....Pastor Raines

Declaration....."The Starting".....Pastor Raines

"My Country 'Tis of Thee".....Choirs

Declaration....."The Signing".....Pastor Raines

"The Statue of Liberty".....Men's Quintet

Declaration....."The Sealing".....Pastor Raines

"This Land is Your Land".....Choirs

Testimony "Praise to my Country, USA" J.B. Lenoir

"This is My Father's World" Congregation & Choirs Hymn # 50

"America The Beautiful".....Ladies Ensemble

Testimony "Praise to my Fellowmen" Eula Dalrymple

Solo....."Others".....Kenneth Crawford

"Win the Lost at any cost".....Choirs

Testimony....."Praise to my God".....Steve Bush

Solo....."My God is Real".....Conrad Hefner

"Battle Hymn of the Republic".....Choirs

Benediction.....Pastor Raines

"God Bless America".....Congregation & Choirs

Route 10, Box 430
Franklin, NC 28734
February 25, 1981

The Reverend Eugene Ridley
Mulls Grove Baptist Church
Route 6, Box 312
Morganton, NC 28655

Dear Reverend Ridley:

The membership of Mount Hope Baptist Church has unanimously voted to call Dennis Patton as our pastor.

We respectfully request that Brother Patton be ordained by Mulls Grove Baptist Church at the Sunday night service of March 8, 1981, so that he might assume his duties as pastor of Mount Hope Baptist Church on March 9, 1981.

Thank you very much.

Yours truly,

MOUNT HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

Marcia M. Crawford
Church Clerk

mmc

Geneva Burnette

Mt. Hope Church was, and is, one of the greater contributions to my spiritual life. My first memories of church are none other than the old white building, which creaked when the wind blew and which had wide, wooden flooring that also creaked in spots when walked on. I can remember curtains hung across the church on wires to separate class rooms (somehow green comes to mind when I think of those curtains). An organ at the front and right of the church, as one faced the pulpit, supplied the instrumental music. The only two I can recall playing the organ were Mrs. Vashtie Lewis and Doris Dalrymple.

A song "The Half Has Never Been Told" sounded to my child's mind and ears like "The Half Has Never Ben-Toe". I never questioned what that meant. Also, a phrase in the song "Higher Ground" which says 'He lifted me up and let me stand' sounded like "He lifed me up and set me down'. I didn't question that either.

There were two-week revivals (at the least). Lots of men would stand on the ouside looking in. Sometimes, I'm sure, it was from a shortage of sitting room, but I've always suspected this was a good chance for socializing also. Revival preachers were long-winded most of the time--it must have been expected of them. Up to a certain age, children were allowed to lie on the bench and go to sleep, just like now.

People really turned out for associational meetings. Not as many men and women worked away from hom. Long, make-shift tables were set up and everbody "intergrated" their food. That was an exciting time for the children. At lunch time, we ate and ate and ran about until we were worn out by the days end.

Indoor plumbing and restrooms were non-existent. That and other conveniences and comforts came gradually after the present building was erected--separate Sunday School rooms, furnace, padded pews, carpeting, air conditioning, etc.

In the summer, the children's Sunday School classes were held on the outside at times, weather permitting. There weren't so many cars passing on the highway to distract (most people were in church anyway, and those who weren't stayed home). We probably noticed every bird, butterfly and worm, but much more of the lessons penetrated than one would think. The teachers in my earlier years were Moter (Flora Crawford), Mrs. Ila Martin, Mrs. Nina Kiser, Mrs. Vashtie Lewis, and Mrs. Blanche Dalrymple.

When they were working on the new building, we went to Mt. Zion Methodist Church. I remember being in Mrs. Clara Harrison's Sunday School class, which was held at the front of the church in the choir section.

I don't think our parents ever missed a service at church, except for illness. All eight of us children were packed into the truck, and to church we went. We even walked the four miles, night and morning, for a time. Wayne Penland had a big truck, and he would haul people. We rode with him many times during the time when we had no transportation.

It is strange how some habits and customs change as time goes on. Years ago, the men sat on one side of the church and women sat on the other side. Therefore, mothers usually had the responsibility of quieting squirming little ones. Also, there was a lot of going in and out of the church during services, but Mt. Hope wasn't as bad as some churches.

There is one thing that has never changed. After a certain age, the young people separated themselves and sat in one section, as they do now.

When I was eight, I became a Christian. Mr. George Davis was the pastor then. Several young people and I were baptized in the church baptistry, located behind and below the church in the creek. As usual, a path had to be cleared through the weeds to the creek. There are certain things one doesn't forget about those baptismal services--the walk there and back, the creek running quietly, the smell of vegetation along the creek bank, the song "Shall We Gather At The River", the preacher getting himself situated so as to have a firm stand while baptizing, and the excitement of those being baptized. The children made sure they got the "front row" so they wouldn't miss anything. Some couldn't resist dipping hands and feet into the water--until an exasperated parent intervened.

Richard and I were married at Mt. Hope by Mr. Manual Wyatt, a former pastor. Our children were saved and baptized there. That, too, was before the indoor baptistry.

All these memories are good, but the most important memory and gift is the spiritual heritage--one that is there regardless of any situation in life. This, through God, can be passed to our children and their children, as long as time lasts. I pray each generation will receive this gift in sincerity and joy.

Richard Burnette

I came to Mt. Hope in 1957. My first experience with the church was when I was married to Geneva Crawford in December, 1955. She became Geneva Burnette. We moved to Virginia and stayed until September, 1957. At that time, we became more active in the church. We could have stayed up north and made more money, but could not have had the same opportunity as here working in the church.

I was ordained a deacon in the church about 1959 or 1960, and have been Sunday School teacher to the young boys. Ronnie Pendergrass, Charles and Clarence Shields, Kay Lindsey, Edwin Blaine were my first class. The class - half of them were so mean a teacher could not stay in the class with them. The pastor did not want these young boys to go in the same class with them. We had a lot of fun. This was a well organized class of boys. Edwin Blaine was converted as results of being in this class.

Ricky was born in 1962. We promised God we would raise him up to go to church, and to love God's people. Jeanna came along in 1964. We promised God we would raise her up in the church and the ways of the church. This we did to the best of our ability. Ricky went off to school after high school. He went to the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. He got involved with a church there and the University religious activities. When he graduated he took a two year work as journeyman-missionary to the Phillipines, teaching agriculture and spiritual witnessing.

Jeanna is still in school at Western Carolina. She attends church services and will finish December 1986 in Interior Design. She has witnessed to her room mates and been asked for spiritual guidance by her friends.

Mt. Hope has meant a lot to me and I have worked in a lot of things. When I first came the heat was a coal furnace. Someone had to come in on Saturday night and build the fire, and early on Sunday morning add coal or wood. This has been changed to automatic heat and air conditioner.

The well was not strong enough to supply the church and pastors' family. I helped get that taken care of. We had over 30 gallons of water per minute at the time the well was drilled.

We needed a new piano. The deacons met and we agreed to buy a new one, and started off by taking an offering. I had $5.00 in my pocket and gave it. As I was going home from church, this man and his family were stuck in the ditch with his car. I helped get him settled down for the night in town and he gave me exactly $5.00

Dan Stiles was to be ordained in our church just at the time Clyde Collins had resigned. We had the ordination committee meeting and the questioning period was over. We were ready for the ordination service. I was to welcome the people and make announcements and introduce the speaker. He was a professor from Fruitland, and he never showed up. I didn't know what in the world to do. I think the house must have been full. We came up the stairs--still no speaker. As we walked through, Cecil Frady took the responsibility to preach the ordination message. I have never forgotten that night and Mr. Frady has not forgotten it either.

Billy Smith came in the early seventies. We began a building program. I was on the Building Committee. We put in the baptistry, a new heat system, enlarged the auditorium, enlarged the choir loft, stained windows, padded seats with carpet on the floor. We have a very comfotable building. Before, bugs would come in at night. Birds have flown in, and the lights would trip the circuit breaker several times during a service.

We have seen different families grow up in this church. What a blessing to see these people that were babies and small children when I started going to Mt. Hope. Now they have their families and bring them to church regularly.

We have a nice building. It is comfortable, has large rest rooms, convenient class rooms, teachers for all ages and good teachers. We have a good preacher and his family who preaches God's word to us. We have an excellent education program through Sunday School and Training Union. Wednesday night Bible study, which I have worked for and am proud of. I am disappointed that people in the shadow of our church have so little interest and cannot appreciate the value of the church and what it means to each persons' life.

Debbie Cole

My family moved to Franklin, North Carolina, in January, 1986. We were all searching for something that had been missing in our lives, an emptiness. We visited different churches, but never found one that we felt comfortable with.

My life began on April 27, 1986. That was the day the Lord came into my life. My daughter, Christie, and I were baptized the very next Sunday, May 4, 1986. My son, David, opened his heart to the Lord on May 25, 1986. My daughter, Angie, opened her heart to the Lord on June 29, 1986.

I feel like God sent us to Franklin. He sent us to Mount Hope Baptist Church. This church is the home that we all longed for.

James E. Cook
Revena B. Cook
Timothy E. Cook

The people of Mt. Hope Baptist Church are a kind and caring people. We are thankful to be a part of the fellowship and love of this church. Through the years, Mt. Hope has meant much to our family.

"For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

May God continue to bless this church.

Alice L. Coss

# 100th Anniversary
# of
# Mt. Hope Baptist Church

This 100th Anniversary will be a memorable occasion for me, Alice Lewis Coss, being a member of this church for many years. I grew up in church and started attending around 7 years of age.

I recall one large gathering room, a painted white structure with trees all around, expecially on the left hand side. Our homecomings were held with a long homemade table to spread the food on. I can still see wagons and horses as they were tied to these trees during these occasions.

My mother was Alice Vashti Kiser, the daughter of J. J. and Alice Walker Kiser, who moved here from Rutherfordton, North Carolina in the 1900's. She later married William Oscar Lewis and moved away from this community for several years. I have heard her say the Lord made it possible for her to return and my granddaddy left her the homeplace as an inheritance.

My daddy was saved in his later years during revival and was baptized in the Cartoogechaye Creek near the bridge. His older brother, Fred Lewis, was baptized at the same time.

On returning to this community, my mother took us children to church regularly. We walked in the bad weather in the winter time. We gathered around an old cast iron wood stove, had wooden benches for pews. As children we sat on wooden blocks being longer in Sunday School. My mother played the organ by ear for she had no professional training. They taught us about Jesus and His love from the Bible. I can recall the son "Jesus Loves Me" very vividly. The Bible was our source of study for having very little literature. In winter time, the services of our church almost died out, except for Uncle John Dalrymple and my mother. I can remember a Mr. Blaine and Liza and Irwim Siler being there along. Aunt Amber Kiser, my mother, and us children helped to keep the church clean. This was a Saturday job, and we placed whatever flowers we could find in the church.

Preaching services were held over a month and during a revival in which preacher Alvin Solesbee and a preacher McCoy were preaching, I was saved at around 10 years of age, being baptized in Cartoogechaye Creek near the bridge. There was very little money to pay the preacher, so food was gathered up by wagon loan and given to the pastor as a love token. Revivals being held as much as 2 weeks at a time--had morning services, also. Revivals were held in the Fall and people dropped their work and showed great concern for the lost. Souls were saved back then and Christians would be burdened for someone going to witness to them and in prayer for their being saved. Many tears were shed over lost souls.

I married in the 1930's, and left this community for several years attending occasionally as I could. After living in Californis for 15 years, while home at Christmas time, I went out and made a picture of the church on January 3, 1963, (23 years ago). I had this enlarged for my mother on "Mother's Day". The church and Christian work were her first love being a very devoted Christian and taught a class for some 30 years (being 79 years when deceased on January 19, 1977).

Mrs. J. L. Martin, Blanche and Eula Dalrymple, Aunt Nina Kiser, and mother taught the older adult Ladies Class for years and up until she was unable and up in age herself, my mother was elected to teach this class, which is not "Cleanors" class being taught by Eula Dalrymple and Kate Crawford.

My first husband, W. L. Setser, Jr., passed away while we lived in California at age 58. I returned home and after 3 years, I met my present husband, Clement J. Coss, also a member of Mt. Hope Baptist Church, his wife being deceased 1 1/1 years prior. We were married in this church February 15, 1975, attending church together regularly until he was no longer able. He has been a wheelchair patient almost 5 years now this coming November. We cannot attend at the present time, and appreciate the prayers of many who remember us.

Mt. Hope Baptist Church stands on solid ground in the community reaching out to all who will enter these doors.

I want to thank everyone who has helped to enrich my life as a Christian and for the faithful ones who now serve.

In His Name.

Bruce and Pauline Crawford

Bruce was born to Cecil and Flora Crawford October 31, 1932. He has gone to Mt. Hope Church most all his life. Bruce was saved 1941. He and his twin brother, Kenneth, were baptized in Cartoogechaye Creek simultaneously by Preacher Davis.

Bruce was away from his family and friends at Mt. Hope for the two years he spent in the Army during the Korean War in 1953 and 1954.

In 1955, Bruce married Pauline Browning from Jackson County. Pauline was saved in 1949, and was a member of Zion Hill Baptist Church. Pauline joined Mt. Hope Church in 1955.

Their first child was a daughter, Teresa Ann Crawford (Moss). When Teresa was saved August 25, 1963, Preacher Carl Sizemore was pastor. She was baptized in Cartoogechaye Creek. When she stepped off the bank, she was so little she went all the way under, but that didn't scare Teresa, she just came up and swam out to Preacher Sizemore who was holding his hands out to her.

Bruce and Pauline's second child was a son, Maurice Lynn Crawford. Maurice was saved and baptized when he was seven years old at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Fairfax, Virginia, where Bruce and his family had moved. They lived in Fairfax for six years.

While in Virginia, they had their third child, a daughter, Sandra Jean Crawford. When Sandra was 5 months old, they moved back to Wayah Valley and Mt. Hope Church for one year just to leave again and go to Smyrna, Georgia, for another 6 years. While in Smyrna, they joined Community Baptist Church, and in 1974, Bruce was ordained a deacon of the church.

In 1975, Bruce and family moved back home. J. D. Grant was holding a revival at Mt. Hope in February of 1975 when Sandy was saved, baptized and joined Mt. Hope.

In January, 1983, Dennis Patton was pastor at Mt. Hope when Maurice accepted the call to preach. Maurice was always a very quiet boy, and it was hard for him to get his words out. His parents knew the Lord had been dealing with him for some time. This particular Sunday, Preacher Patton said he had a surprise for us. He introduced his guest speaker. He was a man who was crippled and had a bad speech impairment. But he sure let us know of what the Lord had done for him. And that's when Maurice decided to accept God's calling in his life and with God's help he could do it.

There have been lots of pastors and members at Mt. Hope that have meant a lot to me and my family. Even at the times we were away, we always thought of Mt. Hope and home.

We hope our children will rear their children under the guidance of good people like Mt. Hope people.

Mrs. Cecil Crawford

I realized when I thought of the years in Mt. Hope, that I could write a book about the people and the blessings they were to me.

I will mention some of my memories, first of the old church building. The original building was a one room structure that faced up the Cartoogechaye Creek, and was built by J. B. (Mr. Jessie) Stalcup. It was turned later to face the relocated road.

There were two doors in the front of the church. There were four long windows on each side of the building. On the inside, the walls were wainscoted up aways and covered above that with brown burlap to the ceiling. Oil lamps sat on brackets between the windows down each side of the building, with a large one on the puplit. As the membership grew, wires were stretched across the room and curtains hung across to make partitions for classes.

There were two cast-iron stoves, one on each side of the building. The stove pipes went so high, then went across, met in the middle, joined together, and pipes ran up to the flue in the middle of the church. One didn't get cold because, with both stoves, the room stayed fairly warm.

When the old building was torn down, it was noticed that the rafters had been reinforced by wrapping hickory withes around them. This probably was done when the church was moved many years before, but it withstood the wind and weather very well, with much creaking and groaning.

Many blessing have been mine since I joined the church and was baptized by Rev. J. C. Owen on November 9, 1919 in the Cartoogechaye Creek behind the church. That was a very happy occasion for me. 1 was doing what Jesus commanded all his children to do.

Space does not allow me to mention all the people who strengthened me in my Christian life, but one of the first persons to make an impression on me was Uncle "Em" Crawford (who later became my father-in-law). 1 never heard a more able person in prayer. He was always present in spite of his advanced age, and the three miles from his home to the church. (People walked, rode horse-back or rode in wagons or buggies.) Among many others, I think of Herman Childers, Mr. John Blaine, Mrs. Alice Kiser, Mrs. Mary Dalrymple, Aunt Lizzie Setser, who lived into her nineties, and Mrs. Fanny Siler. Many others have a warm place in my heart.

ln my later years, I think of Mrs. Nina Gillespie Kiser, Mrs. Vashtie Kiser Lewis and Mr. Bill Shields. He is one of Mt. Hope's own boys, who was and is working for the Lord.

It meant very much to me that my husband, Cecil, was a Christian who served as deacon, Sunday School Superintendant, teacher, and other places in the church.

I first taught the Card Class (we used about a 3 by 4 card with the Bible story on it and a picture to illustrate the story). One had to do some studying to hold the attention of small children, especially before we had our rooms curtained off. After teaching the Card Class, I taugh Primary and Junior children. I enjoyed teaching, or trying to teach them.

It is a great blessing to see our children and grandchildren sharing in carrying on the work of the church as the years go by.

Eddie Crawford

What Mt. Hope Means To Me

First, I would like to thank my father and mother (Kenneth and Emily Crawford) for being Christian parents, because if they had not been, I wouldn't have been brought up in the fellowship of the Christian people of Mt. Hope.

I would like to thank all the teachers that put up with me. They taught me the wonderful Love of Jesus as I was growing up.

I was married to Becky McConnell at Mt. Hope at the age of nineteen on August 12, 1978.

Becky joined Mt. Hope in 1978. This meant alot to me.

Three years later, the Lord started dealing with me in a special way. We were having a revival and Dennis Patton was pastor. Gene Ridley, our former pastor, was the speaker. At 4:30 Friday afternoon God spoke to me. I came to the church and told Dennis what was on my heart. He prayed with me and I was saved on April 22, 1981.

Since then, the Lord has blessed in lots of ways. In 1982, God blessed Becky and I with a baby girl, Jessica. In 1984, I went to Brazil on a mission trip to help build a Bible Camp. In 1985 and 1986 the Lord used me as Youth Sunday School teacher. Now, Becky is expecting another baby in December of 1986.

I pray Mt. Hope will continue to reach out to others and also be the inspiration to my two children as it was to me.

Thank you Mt. Hope for being a church that is rooted in God's word.

Emily Parker Crawford

In April of 1946 my family and I moved into the Cartoogechaye Community. Being baptists, we found Mt. Hope church within sight of our new home.

This wasn't the first connection our family had with Mt. Hope church. On May 10, 1914, my Aunt Ora Parker was baptized and a member for 11 years. Also my great grandmother, Loucendy Seay, was a member in the early 1920's.

I was saved in a revival at Iotla Baptist Church in the spring of 1944. Rev. Bill Sorrells was my pastor and baptized me. He came to Mt. Hope as pastor prior to our moving, so he became by pastor again. Three brother, Bob, Arvel, and Bill Parker, and my sister, Mary Nell, and I joined Mt. Hope in 1946.

Mt. Hope became my life line of Christian teaching for a young teenager. Mrs. J. L. Martin was my intermediate Sunday School teacher, and I thank God for His love she showed to me throughout my youth and early married life, until God took her home. Training Union, prayer meeting, Bible studies, Bible schools, and mission organization have been a training, teaching, growing part of my life for the past 40 years.

God gave me very special Christian friends through Mt. Hope, and on June 26, 1951, Kenneth Crawford and I were made one in Christ and have grown in His love for the past 35 years and thank Him for the remaining years He has for us together.

God has bountifully blessed us in His service at Mt. Hope and the missions out reach of our church. Mt. Hope has a big heart when we hear of a need or a cry for help.

One of my blessings and most humbling experiences was working on the bus ministry, visiting every week in the homes of unchurched families and touching the lives of children with God's love and His word. Danny Callis was our bus ministry director. God gave him a greater vision of missions (around the world) and as he and Nancy serve as foreign missionaries, they are calling for help.

In January, 1982, Danny wrote Kenneth a letter asking him to get up a teach and come over and help us (lay block). So in August of 1984, Kenneth got a call from a concerned Christian in Georgia saying "I'm getting up a team to go to Brazil in November. Your name is on my list." As we prayed and followed through with God's directions, Kenneth and all three of our sons left for Eastman, Georgia, Miami, Florida, and Salvador, Brazil on November 15, 1984. They labored for the Lord on that mission field 2 weeks and arrived back hom to very anxious families on November 30. It was a very rewarding experience for us all, and now God is calling again. August 3, 1986, Kenneth received another call from a man in Tennessee saying "I'm getting up a team of laborers to go to Salvador, Brazil, September 29 through October 13, and your name is on the list." Kenneth received the second call Sunday, August 10, giving details and the need for more masons and cooks to go. The Lord willing and providing, Kenneth and I and another couple from Sugarfork Baptist Church will leave for Johnson City, Tennessee, September 28 joining the team and flying from there to Miami, Florida, from there to Rio, and on to Salvador, Brazil, September 30 where we will meet Danny, Nancy, Joel, and Jonathon Callis and other missionaries from the United States. I will help Nancy and Carman cook for the men as they build a day care for the camp. We are very excited and feel God leading in this mission. Thanking God for the doors of opportunity as they open and trusting we can walk through them. This is acting out what I have learned and yearned for in the 30 some years of W.M.U.

I cannot put into words what Mt. Hope means to me or the many Christians I have met through the past 40 years. My heart overflows with love for Mt. Hope and I appreciate our sister churches in this Association for their support and dedication to spread God's word at home and abroad.

Love in Christ.

Kenneth Crawford

What Mt. Hope Church Means To Me

First and most of all, Mt. Hope, through its Sunday School teachers (Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Nina Kiser, Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Blanche Dalrymple, and my mother, Flora Crawford) and pastors while I was a child along with Christian teaching at home was the avenue through which I realized I was lost. I gave my heart to Jesus when I was eight years old, and was baptized on August 17, 1941. G. W. Davis was pastor and R. F. Mayberry preached during the revival.

Through the preaching and teaching of the church, I grew in my new life. There came opportunities for service to my Lord. There is where true joy and happiness is. Music director, Sunday School teacher, different positions in Church Training, and Deacon.

In 1984, Mt. Hope sent me to Brazil for another opportunity of service. We helped build the only North Brazil Conference Center, kind of like a Ridgecrest. Then in 1985-1986 they sent my pastor, Martin Fisher, Bob Parker, and myself to Richmond, Virginia, to help build a church. I am very thankful to Mt. Hope for all these opportunities for service. Through these services provided by Mt. Hope, I have been instrumental in leading souls to the Lord. Thank you! Thank you! Praise The Lord.

Mt. Hope is also the place I started my married life with the most wonderful woman in the world, Emily Parker Crawford, on June 26, 1951. We have grown together at Mt. Hope.

Mt. Hope is also the place that helped supply Christian teaching for our four children, Bobby, Vaughn, Eddie, and Nora. Mt. Hope also ordained Bobby to the ministry--thank you Lord and Mt. Hope Church. Our other children are also Christians and the Lord is using them. Now, some of our grandchildren are getting Christian teaching at Mt. Hope.

I have many fond memories of the many brothers and sisters in Christ I have gained through the 45 years I have been at Mt. Hope. Some have gone on to be with the Lord, some still remain.

I have known many good pastors through these years including my present one--my Pastor and Brother in Christ Martin Fisher.

I am thankful and praise the Lord for Mt. Hope Church.

George Crawford

God is always to be first in our life. The family comes next. It was instituted in order for us to experience the love and closeness of God and each other.

At an early age, Mt. Hope became a family to me when I became a Christian and member. From the oldest to the youngest, we are one in Christ.

Marcia Crawford

We have been asked the question: What does Mt. Hope Baptist Church mean to you? The first thing that comes to mind to me is--It's my church. This church means more to me than many words can ever tell. My two children, Scott and Lindsay, and I have been coming to this church for many years. Both children since they were born in 1978 and 1982, and I joined the church by letter of my profession of faith in 1976. I would like to take this opportunity to thank God for my family. I have got the two best kids in the whole wide world, but what mother doesn't think her kids are the best in the whole wide world! I have been richly blessed by my kids and look forward to many more in the future.

I have also had the privilege of getting to be the leader of an absolutely terrific bunch of girls in Acteens for the past several years. Each of these girls, and they all now who they are, will always have a very special place in my heart. I hope that each and every one of them realizes how very much I love them. It has been a challenging experience to be with these girls. We have had countless experiences together--both laughing and crying. We have all learned together, and hopefully we have all grown a little through these experiences. I thank the church people that had the original confidence in me to undertake this great task, and I continue to be thankful that I am still with "my girls". I have seen a few of them graduate from high school and go on to pursue other avenues available to them. It makes me very proud to see what outstanding individuals they have become.

Another area in the church that has blessed me tremendously is the singing. As all of you know, I love to sing praises to God. I appreciate every opportunity I get to sing. Mt. Hope has more talent when it comes to singing, playing instruments, leading the choir and congregation than any other church that I know of. There are always people willing to sing--whether it be solos, duets, trios, quartets, or with the choir. I thank each one of the people that have let me sing with them over the years. The "Mt. Hope Trio" has blessed me beyond words. Rebecca Fisher and Rhonda Hefner and I have sung together as the trio for the past three years. Each time we sing, whether it be with music or without, I am so filled that sometimes I could almost bust. God gives us the music to sing, and we do the best that we can to convey our message in song. I think I speak for Rebecca and Rhonda when I say that it is our prayer that someone will

hear something in one of the songs that we sing that will convict them of something in their own lives. I don't think I could name just one song that I could classify as my favorite. "Jesus Loves Me", "Even Winds Whisper His Name", "My House is Full", ... I could name them all. They are all my favorites. I thank God for Rebecca and Rhonda and what they mean to me.

Our pastor, Martin Fisher, is in my opinion one of the greatest preachers I have ever known. Every sermon that he delivers is straight from God and straight from his heart. He is so filled and so humble. I thank God for sending him and his wonderful family to us. He is also the most understanding person ever. Thank you, Martin, for being you.

I love this church and all of the people that are a part of it. You all are a very special people, and I appreciate and thank you for all of your prayers of support for me and my family.

Preaulo Crawford

A praying people that has blessed my life. The prayers of those that had a love and concern for the lost and the preaching of the Gospel that made the biggest and best change in my life. I was nine years old when the Holy Spirit spoke to me about the condition of my life, and told me of the love that Jesus has for the lost and dying. Praise, Honor and Glory to His name that He loves us. Those that have lived before us around Mt. Hope that have taught and lived with the love of God in their life, I praise God for.

I will always have memories that will never be destroyed because God's love is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Thank God for Mt. Hope!

Eula Dalrymple

In 1956, I joined Mt. Hope Church. After serving five years in Pioneer Missions in the State of Washington, I thought a fully organized church would be a place to relax, enjoy a good sermon each week, and listen to a well prepared Sunday School teacher for a while. I soon learned there were places of service for all, so after 30 years as a member of Mt. Hope Church, I thank the Lord for the doors He has opened to me to serve Him. I have had opportunities to teach youth and adults in Sunday School classes, Mission Study classes in WMU, and to work with WMU ladies as we "Labored Together with Him".

So, my life has truly been blessed in these 30 years, and my prayers will ever be that God will continue to bless.

William Newton Dalrymple and
Blanche Martin Dalrymple

On a cold, wintery day in January, 1925, William Newton Dalrumple and Cecil Crawford each took a wagon pulled by a team of mules to Murphy, North Carolina, to move the new pastor, Rev. Jefferson L. Martin, and his family to Macon County, and to his new church field - Mount Hope Baptist Church.

By the time they had arrived back in Macon County with the new pastor, Bill had fallen in love with Blanche, the pastor's oldest daughter, and already knew she was the girl he was going to marry.

On July 19, 1925, Bill and Blanche were married and raised four girls and one boy. "Our children grew up in Mount Hope Baptist Church, and we have seen all of our children saved and become members of this church. Our four daughters were married here. We shall forever be grateful for the inspiration, teachings and influence this church has had on our lives and those of our children", said the Dalrymples.

William is a deacon of Mount Hope Baptist Church, and serves as a trustee and usher. As building projects got underway at the church, Bill was always there with his hammer ready to assist in the carpentery. In his quiet, unassuming way, the love of Christ has been lived out in his life, day by day, in his church and community.

The sanctuary of Mount Hope Baptist Church is made beautiful every Sunday with flowers which are placed there by Blanche Dalrymple. She has been a faithful member of Women's Missionary Union for around fifty years, has sun in the choir, has served as church treasurer, and has taught Sunday School classes.

"As we reach the sunset years of life, we look back and give thanks to God for Mount Hope Baptist Church. Outside of our home, this church has had the greatest influence on our lives, and we praise God for letting us be a part of this church."

Henry and Vivian Dotson

We moved to this community March 30, 1981. On Easter Sunday in April, we moved our church membership to Mt. Hope.

We have enjoyed the Christian fellowship, the friendliness, love and caring for each other while attending church here.

We thank and praise God for his love and blessings for each of us.

Brian M. Fisher

Mt. Hope church means a great deal to me. I've gone here almost four years now, and each day, I become closer to it and the Christian fellowship that makes the church so strong. I hope our family can stay here forever. But if my family were to leave, I hope Mt. Hope Baptist Church stands forever because it is a true and faithful house of the Lord.

Rebecca Worley Fisher

Greetings to all my brothers and sisters in Christ. I thank my Lord that I have the privilege and opportunity to share Mt. Hope's 100th birthday.

At an early age, the Holy Spirit drew me to church. Many time I would walk several miles to share in Christian fellowship. At the age of twelve, I decided to join His church. I was more faithful at that time than most of the members at Caney Fork. I was baptized and my name was added to the roll. I was a member of His church in name only. About one year later, our pastor, Rev. John W. Goforth, was preaching a revival service. It was at that time I realized I had been baptized in the water, but not of His blood. I am so thankful the Holy Spirit moved me that night and that I asked Him to come into my heart.

Little did I know at that time the blessings He had in store for me.

I was fourteen when His Sprit, in a still, small voice, revealed to me the man I was to marry. Yes, young people, He even speaks to you. If we are faithful, oh the blessings He has in store for you and me.

On June 10, 1967, I married Martin Fisher. The Lord blessed us with three adorable, healthy, saved children! (Brian, 1969, Heather, 1971, and Shannon, 1973)

We had been married for seven years when I was blessed with a spiritual partner. He surrendered to the ministry one year later. "Lord, I cannot be a minister's wife. I have three small children. I am not knowledgeable enought. It's just me, Lord. Oh, I hear your voice. You mean it's not just me, but it's you in me and through me? Oh, thank you, Lord."

We have been in His ministry now for twelve years. He has placed us in many churches. We have had many learning experiences. I thank Him for being with us through each one.

At this time, we are able to celebrate with Mt. Hope on their 100th birthday.

I am thankful unto God for all of my brothers and sisters here. Never have I been a part of such a loving fellowship of people. I'm thankful they are so mission minded, and that they realize that His love is an action word also. There are so many people at Mt. Hope that have been an example and an inspiration to me.

I pray that His love will continue in and through Mt. Hope and that His church will have even a greater vision.

May the Lord bless each of my brothers and sisters in Christ. I will meet each of you at his table one day.

Rev. Martin Fisher

Since April, 1983, I have had the privilege of serving our Lord in Mt. Hope Baptist Church. These years have been learning and growing times for me and my family as well as this congregation. Mt. Hope has been a place of challenge and consolation, fellowship and worship. Here the Word of God is demanded and the heart of this people is grounded upon God's word. For this cause, preaching has been very rewarding. The Lord has truly blessed His congregation with many talented and willing people. As I searched the past 100 year records, I found the reason for such a people. Their eyes were focused upon Jesus from the very beginning. Mission work and contributions were recorded as early as 1889. Thank God for a place like this to serve with a people who love the Lord, their pastor, and his family. If God so tarries, I pray that the next 100 years can be a glory to God as the past 100 have. I am thankful to have a part in such great work as Mt. Hope Baptist Church.

David Houston

I have wandered around all my life with a burden on my heart and did not realize what it was until Jesus started working in my life. My wife and I would seem to always talk about going to church for our children and ourselves, but never seemed to get it done. But one Sunday, we got up and it seems she asked me and we agreed to go and find us a church. We left out undecided talking while traveling. We remembered Mt. Hope sitting on that hill, and that setting just seemed to head us in that direction.

When we walked in the door, the receiption was so inviting and the people so welcoming, we knew that this is where we had been led to go. We enjoyed the services, its people, and everything about it. We enjoy it still. Not only is Mt. Hope a church in a beautiful setting, but what is inside is more beautiful. Its warm, helpful, friendly people, our pastor, Martin Fisher, and his family all have been an inspiration and blessing to myself and my family.

Because of Mt. Hope church, we are now part of God's church and his plan of salvation. I cannot praise God enough for how we are accepted here. I praise God daily and thank Him for Mt. Hope and its loving, caring people.

Hattie Kimsey

In 1900 my father, Charles Howell, would hitch our horses to the wagon, and we would all go to Mt. Hope to Sunday School and church. I was in the card class and I learned to love Jesus at an early age. Mrs. Fannie Siler would always bring a pitcher of cool water for everyone to drink. I attended Mt. Hope from 1900 to the fall of 1908. I was baptized in Cartoogechaye Creek in 1903. I dearly loved the Crawfords, Conleys, Blaines, Silers and others.

When I could read how wicked people treated Jesus, I would cry and cry, but now I rejoice because he was able to save all who would trust him. I will always love Mt. Hope Church and wish you the best of everything. I remember Aunt Tilda Blaine walking up and down the aisles of the church shouting when David Blaine was saved.

I am now Hattie Howell Kimsey. I was both in 1892, and I am now 94 years old. I live 2 miles west of Hiawassee, Georgia.

Bonnie Kirkland

What Mt. Hope Church Means To Me

Mt. Hope is my home church, and I have always loved to go there. I joined the church several years ago. Brenda and Ron were saved and baptized while Mr. Sizemore was pastor. All the children live to where they go to different churches now.

My prayer is that Dan will start going to church with me and come to know Jesus as his Savior.

Doris H. Ledbetter

Mt. Hope

What it Means to Me

It's hard to find the correct words to express what Mt. Hope really means to me. When I was growing up, it was just another little church by the side of the road. In later years, June 1973, it started to have more meaning. God saw fit to share with us a part of His creation next to the church. My family and I moved into the trailer below the church. At that time, they were building the new four lane highway. It was hard to see where to exit to our place, so I used the church as a guide line to exit and at night the light that shines on the steeple was my guide. So many times since then that lighted steeple has been a guidance for me. At times when I would fail to see God, I would look at that light shining on the steeple, knowing what it stood for, and it seemed as if God was saying "Be not afraid, I will guide and direct you and you will be my light in this dark world."

The spirit dealt with me on several occasions to let this be my home church. In September, 1974, during a revival, I re-dedicated my life to the Lord. I was saved in a Methodist church and was sprinkled so I felt led to be submerged as Jesus had been. On September 29, 1974, I was baptized in the creek below the trailer, saying to the world that it was my will to surrender to the Lord and to do His will to the best of my ability. "Here I am Lord, use me."

I did what I could, with the Lord's help, at the church. Rev. Gene Ridley was the pastor and I have to "thank God" for him because he was such an inspiration and help in directing and guiding me in my young Christian life. So many of the church family was a great blessing as well giving encouragement, spreading love, warmth and great fellowship all around.

In 1977, we moved to Atlanta. I was so heartbroken. I didn't think I could ever leave the church and my church family. They meant so much to me. God assured me that it was meant for us to go. It was so hard, but with the Lord's help, I was able to adjust. Words cannot describe the loneliness I felt there. I had left such a wonderful place where God's handiwork was so beautifully displayed. The beautiful mountains all around seem to stand and paint so tall and high as if in attention to the glory and praise of their maker, our blessed Lord and Savior, as the winds would rustle and blow through the tree tops they seem to whisper "Jesus, Jesus."

As the gentle rippling of the waters would flow down the creek tickling its banks, it burst forth with joy and gladness and praise of our dear Jesus, and here I was in a place where it seemed that God had forsaken. No one seemed to have any knowledge of God, but Jesus said, "You are my light, shine bright." My light was dim and flickered about to go out, but God through His divine grace and mercy would always plant my feet on higher ground and direct my path to bright sunshine paths. After a while of searching and seeking, the Lord directed me to a great church there.

It was such a great privilege to come home. As soon as I entered Mt. Hope, the tears would flow as the treasured memories of the love, joy and the closeness of Jesus and the church family would flow through my mind. The memories have grown fonder. Three of my children were saved at Mt. Hope and two joined after they had accepted Christ at Heatherwood Baptist in Georgia. We were able to move back to Franklin, once again able to join in the love and fellowship that has continued to grow here. When times were hard and the pathways of life were so hard, the struggle so difficult, my dear church family moved in to help spiritually as well as financially. So many of the older members have been a blessing. The pastors that we have had have been of inspiration and encouragement. The now who we have now, Martin Fisher, never fails to bring us the inspired word of God, and what thus saith the Lord, instead of what thus saith man. I thank God for the dedicated and committed servants who help to bring conviction to our lives, so that we can live a more dedicated life and our lights will shine more brightly.

What does Mt. Hope mean to me? A light shining on a hill that brings me peace, joy, love, longsuffering, happiness, kindness, fellowship, but most of all a place of worship where I can seek the face of my dear Lord and Savior in earnest and sincere humility and repentance. I pray that all who enter its doors will find an everlasting fellowship and true repentance with Jesus, may it always offer up a bright light that shines all around the community drawing in the sinners to repentance and offering shelter from the storms of life that are always raging. May each member live a dedicated and committed life so that the lights of Mt. Hope will always burn brightly and give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death to guide our feet into the way of peace.

We thank You dear Lord for this building, for the lights that have so brightly paved the way for those who have walked in darkness, and for what will be done in the years to come. We thank You for every blessing. In Jesus' name.

# THE GREATEST GIFT

"And she brought forth her first-born son and wrapped him in swadling clothes and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn". Luke 2:7

A gift was given to this earth so long ago. Just by removing the gifts wrappings you cannot yet tell the value of the Gift - The small Babe, though sweet and lovable, appeared much the same as any other baby born upon this earth..

There was only one way the true value of the gift could be known, and this would have to wait for 33 years for it's fulfillment!

Each person was and is oblivious to the precious Gift whether they trodded the hot, stony paths or walked and talked with him. All who saw him longed for the peace and happiness that He had, that was so radiant. They went through bitter trials, yet they couldn't discern the true value of the Gift.

But the day the Gift was hung on the cross - - an innocent man cruelly suffering for no fault of His own - - this was the day the ransom wages were paid in full - - so that men through all the ages might accept eternal life.

God, our Father and the son could very well ask, "Don't you want our Gift?" Will you today, thank them for the Gift by accepting it and showing more love to God?

I do thank God for His greatest gift - eternal life, through His Son, Jesus Christ. I want to thank you for all your many gifts of love that you have so graciously shown to me. I walk and talk with you every day, but until the storms of life made my path less visible was I able to see the brilliant light that shines through all of you in helping to make the pathway for others so clear, by bringing your gifts to mankind. I pour out a heart of gratitude for all your prayers that give me strength needed, your smiles and encouraging words that tell me that days will be brighter, the cards that express cheer and comfort, for the money that has helped to make that burden so much lighter, for your thoughts or just any way you have helped me. I appreciate it so very much and if I can ever help you I will so gladly do it, in the meantime, I ask God to return to you the gift of love, joy and kindness that you have shown to me and my family. May Gods special blessings always be upon you.

In love and much appreciation,

Doris H. Ledbetter

Doris and family

Bernice McCracken

This church has meant a lot to me over the years. My two children, Roberta and Doyle, were small when we started going to Mt. Hope. They professed at age 10 and 7. They were baptized by the Rev. Swafford who was our pastor at this time. They joined our church after being baptized in the Cartoogechaye Creek. My husband, Robert, rededicated his life and was baptized by the Rev. Sizemore. He joined Mt. Hope Church.

I dedicated my life to Christ at Dillard Baptist Church and was baptized at age 14 in Betty's Creek. So, I have a lot to be thankful for for Mt. Hope Church, especially the Intermediate Sunday School class I taught, with their help, for a couple of years. I truly enjoyed them.

Art and Sandy Ochsner

When we came to Franklin from Painesville, Ohio, in December of 1977, we were pleased by the friendship extended by many of our neighbors from Mt. Hope Church. You made us feel welcome. We attended Mt. Hope the following Sunday, and knew we didn't have to look any further for a church home. We couldn't have found a more caring fellowship of brothers and sisters in Christ to replace the ones we left at First Baptist in Painesville.

Bob Parker

I moved into the Mt. Hope community shortly after coming out of the service in '45. I know it was good for me that I got back into church soom after being in service. I thank God for the influence of the faithful and dedicated ones in Mt. Hope church. Also, I thank God for a church that was and still is missionary minded and dedicated to help and service to the community and human needs.

I thank God for a faithful and dedicated Christian wife, not only to her family, but to the church. I also thank God for three wonderful Christian children who never gave us a moment's worry. I know the church membership and teaching was a great influence on their lives.

There have been some disappointments in the lives of some people, but God has never let me down.

May God wonderfully bless the Mt. Hope Baptist Church and its people, and may they always prove themselves worthy of God's blessings.

In God's love and service.

Helen Parker

When I married and moved to the community, l was a Methodist, but by attending Mt. Hope Church, I felt a part of the church so was baptized and became a member. l have been blessed so much and enjoy being a part of a missionary minder church.

The W.M.U. has been special to me. I still don't know all there is to know about W.M.U., but it has been rewarding to learn about missions and be a part of the mission work of the church.

I thank God for a Christian husband who has been a great influence in my life, also for our children who are Christians, and their dedication to the Lord and Mt. Hope. I am also thankful for all the ones that make up the church for their love and friendship.

In God's love and service.

Gladys Pendergrass

I cam to Mount Hope from Emanuel Baptist Church in Greenville, South Carolina, 38 years ago. Since that time, I have been an active member of this church. These have been wonderful years for me and my husband. Both my hsband, Newell, and my son, Ron, have accepted the Lord in this church.

I am happy to say that I have had the opportunity to teach many of the children during the past 31 years. During that time, they have grown to be fine young men and women. Some of them continue to be active members at Mount Hope.

I thank the Lord for his many blessings for all that He has done for me and my family through this church.

Clara Kiser Shields

I am the daughter of J. B. Kiser. My grandfather and grandmother, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Kiser, and their family were members of Mt. Hope Baptist Church. I was saved and baptized at the age of 11 or 12 during a revival. Alvin Solesbee was the pastor and Rev. D. C. McCoy was doing the preaching. We had preaching once a month and a revival once a year. The revival was always in the fall, after the crops were all in and syrup making time. That way we could have something to feed the preachers and something to give them from our crops. Money was scarce. Two men I especially remember were Mr. John Dalrymple and John Blaine. They were always there. I remember so well someone cutting up a tree and making blocks out of it. We children went down in the corner of the yard and sat on the blocks while my Aunt Vashti Lewis taught us about Jesus.

Much later, our boys, Jack, Gary, and Gene, started in what we called the card class. My mother, Nina Gillespie Kiser, taught them. Jack put his cards on a string and saved them for years.

Gary M. Shields

Dear Lord,

Thank you for providing a community that felt a need to build Mount Hope Baptist Church one hundred years age (1886). Mount Hope has continued to be a nucleus of Christian thought providing the young and old with a "road map" for daily and eternal living.

I rejoice in remembering when my father (W. K. "Bill" Shields) was ordained into the ministry some thirty (30) years ago at Mount Hope Baptist Church. My father's ministry has crossed into other states, counties, to individuals, groups and most of all to families within our own Cartoogechaye Community. Now, as he enjoys retirement, he is able to visit churches and see the results of his ministry in and by others.

My mother (Clara Shields) has been a faithful wife, follower, stimulator, sounding-board, minister's wife to my father, while being a very good mother to three (3) boys (Jack, Gary and Gene). As many mothers, her faith has been tested many times. Now that we are grown, we seek and hold to her advice and beliefs that once was so easy to toss aside.

Our own children are hearing what we once heard. My daughter, Tiffany, age fifteen (15) became a Christian four years ago and a special thanks to the people of Mount Hope Church for giving love and guidance to her during this infant stage of Christian understanding. Again, thanks to my mother and father for their Christian leadership within our family giving my wife, Sandi, and I much responsibility in providing a Christian home.

W. K. (Bill) Shields

Born February 10, 1915, at Kyle, North Carolina, located in the Nantahala Township of Macon County. I am the son of Robert Vance Shields and Molly Lee Shields.

In 1928 at the age of 13, I made a profession of faith in the Lord. In 1933 we moved to Franklin. At that time, I was not looking for a church, neither a wife, but in my new location I found both. In 1940 I was married to Clara Kiser, and in 1942 I rededicated my life and on May 27, 1945, I was baptized into Mt. Hope Baptist Church. Rev. W. L. Sorrells was pastor. I served as deacon, Sunday School superintendent and teacher. I worked and worshiped for six years with Mt. Hope in Friday night home prayer meeting. On December 16, 1951, I was licensed to the gospel ministry, Rev. Arvil Swafford, pastor, Brother Arvil Parker, Church Clerk. On August 31, 1952, I was ordained to the work of the gospel ministry by Mt. Hope Baptist Church to serve the Ridgecrest Baptist Church, my first pastorate.

Shirley Waldroop

Mt. Hope is the only church that I have had any desire to be a part of. To me, it's the closest to being "perfect" than any in the country. (I'm prejudiced, I guess.)

My first memories are of walking to church each week with my mother leading me by the hand, keeping me from straying in the path of cars passing by. I was the youngest of twelve children, and it was my mother that always took us to church. She continually prayed that we would turn out all right.

I was saved in revival services when I was just a kid and was baptized in the creek behind the church. As I look back to my younger days here at Mt. Hope, I remember loving to go to Sunday School and Bible School in the summer. I can still quote Bible verses I learned from each. I could name teacher after teacher and pastors that have been a blessing to me throughout the years and most of my teachers are still in the congregation each week here at Mt. Hope.

That's another thing that makes this church special, all the Christian people here that truly love the Lord and love each other and are always ready and willing to help when there is a need in our lives.

Throughout the years, I've seen several members of my family saved and become members of this church. But I've been fortunate enough, and I thank God, I've seen my husband and two sons saved, baptized, and join the church. Now I am praying that my grandchildren will be a part of Mt. Hope, if it be His will. More important of all, that they will be part of God's Family.

I'm looking forward to being a part of Mt. Hope as we start the next 100 years, and my prayer is: that it will always be a "light on the hill" for Christ.

1886-1986

100 YEAR CELEBRATION

MT. HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

September 21, 1986

10:00 a.m.....Sunday School

11:00 a.m.....Worship

Cecil Frady

Bill Shields

Martin Fisher

12:00 noon...Introduction Church History Book

Lunch

6:00 p.m.....Church Wide Song Service

Kenneth Crawford

Conrad Hefner

7:00 p.m.....Wayne Penland

History can only be understood through the eyes of those who record it. What kind of record are we leaving for the next celebration.

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